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British Columbia

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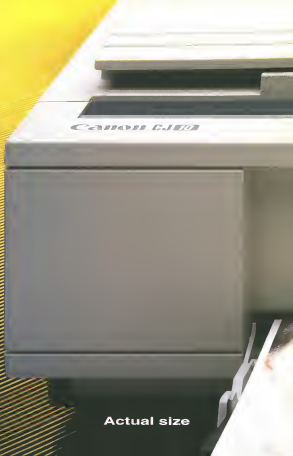
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BRITISH COLUMBIA

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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

AUGUST 14, 1992 \$3.15 (H&M \$3.49)

CONTENTS

4 EDITORIAL

6 LETTERS

8 OPENING NOTES/PASSAGES

Bryan Adams creates a stir; B.C. citizens approve a plan to market their water; a 'What's Who' has trouble with nobodies; West Coast accommodations find Common Ground; 'Infrapage' shows its top; an ad campaign provides bird's-eye view; the controversial amateur paddles through contested territory; British Columbians work harder to train the fat.

11 COLUMN/DIANE FRANCIS

PHOTO BY GABRIEL HOLBY, GEMINITY

12 CANADA

Former Toronto-area Press C. Newsweek reflects on his decade in British Columbia, "the heavenly land of geography"; the changing British Columbia, as seen through the eyes of its residents; B.C. soap and privacy; why people move to the West Coast—and stay; Maclean's interviews Premier Michael Balfour; B.C. native leaders press their land claims; the battle over constitutional reform is generating large fees for public relations consultants and speech writers; a prominent English-rights activist defects to the Parti Québécois.

22 WORLD

British Columbia's reputation as a safe haven persists in Hong Kong, but renewed faith in the colony's future has led to a re-examination of Canada's economic climate; on the eve of the Republican National Convention in Houston, President George Bush's broadening revivification campaign faces the difficult task of keeping a badly divided party; William Clinton and the Democrats fight back against Republican charges.

38 BUSINESS

B.C. forest-products companies struggle to blend corporate profits with environmental concerns; Asian immigrants spend cash and spend into Vancouver's economy; Canada strikes a trade deal with the United States and Mexico.

48 BUSINESS WATCH/PETER C. NEWMAN

50 PEOPLE

50 LIVING

Seasons are turning: some small B.C. communities are retirement havens; Telewest leaps up to rapid growth.

52 TOURISM

Adventure travel operators are demonstrating that there is a tourism horizon in wilderness; the crowds keep flowing to Whistler; the bells of the B.C. tourism bell.

54 LETTER FROM TORONTO

A count-rails that, beyond the clutter and cliché, there is magic on the B.C. coast.

56 SPORTS

Slugging outfielder Larry Walker is the Fraser Valley's gift to the Montreal Expos.

57 MEDIA WATCH/GEORGE BAIN

58 THE ARTS

Film and TV production is booming in British Columbia.

60 PROFILE

In a new novel, Sharnay Fraser, Vancouver-based author Douglas Coupland (*Generation X*) shifts his focus to the temptations of teens.

61 FILMS/BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Terror and tragedy stalk in three new movies: On My Own, The Star Detective and Single White Female.

62 BOOKS

Doris Lessing spins tales of her beloved adopted home, London, in *The Bird Thing*.

64 FOTHERINGHAM

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OPENING NOTES

A trip up the river, some eccentric services and a peak with a view

A STICKY WICKET

It was introduced as an experimenter's gift to his home town in July, since Allen Talbot, the agency that manages Bryan Adams, approached the Vancouver Park board with a generous proposal: the negotiator wanted to wind up his cross-Columbia Waking Up the Nation tour with a live Labor Day concert at Stanley Park. The board agreed, on condition that the crowd be limited to 62,000 and that the board receive an unspecified share of the profits from the available goods, which would likely include a concert t-shirt and his creative soccer-wares. That decision sparked controversy. Ordainers, worried that their Stanley Park park would be trampled by thousands of rock fans, complained loudly.



Adams crinkled trouble

swampers were anxious to sell what should have been free tickets. Then, Bruce Allen himself criticized the crowd limitations. "It should be come on, come on, no tickets, none of that crap," he told a local newspaper. Park commissioner Gerry Thorne countered that Allen and his security people had helped to set the crowd limit. Said Thorne: "Perhaps we're not happy with our reputation that we're going to run a share of the profits." A spokesman for Bruce Allen Talbot denied that allegations but by week's end the agency had yet to decide whether to go ahead with the concert. "The only thing I can think of," Thorne said, "is that Allen wants to sit at this concert and watch the park board to take the rap for it."

DRY POLITICS

While Canadians in the eastern half of the country suffer through one of the coldest and wettest summers in memory, British Columbians are grappling with the opposite problem: hot, dry weather throughout the province has led to less-than-average snow and more than 2,500 forest fires already this year. The heightened concern for water conservation has also fueled criticism of a proposal from Vancouver-based Multinational Water and Power Inc., which wants to divert water from the North Thompson River, down the Columbia and finally to Southern California, John Patten, a farmer who this month organized a town

meeting in Clearwater to discuss the proposal, said that the \$3.6-billion project, which would be financed by U.S. investors, would reduce salmon stocks and marsh habitat in the North Thompson and the Fraser River estuary. Critics also contend that selling water to U.S. customers sets a dangerous precedent. "One of the concerns is that if we start exporting water, we may fall under the Free Trade Agreement," said Steve Ivis, Fred Jackson, whose government has imposed a two-year moratorium on bulk water exports. For his part, Multinational president William Giddens clearly believes that the project's opponents are overreacting against the sale. "If it doesn't happen, the United States will come and take it," he said. "They're got to have water, and it will be more valuable than oil."

THE HUMBLE WHO'S

Surrounded by natural beauty and blessed with an enviable lifestyle, British Columbians have plenty of reasons to boast about their province. But when it comes to personal achievements, residents of Lantzville were to be far more humble. Working on an edition of British Columbia Who's Who, researchers for Vancouver publishing firm B.C. Ltd. (1982) list top questionnaires to about 30,000 candidates in business, politics, sports, the arts and a wide range of other fields. But so far only about 2,000 of them have provided the biographical information asked for the book, which is slated for publication by the end of this year. "Modesty plays a large role here," says copy editor Larry Peckham. "Many of those people have said that they were humbled to be nominated, but felt that they did not deserve to be in the book."

'LIGHT-YEARS AHEAD'

American author Norman Mailer offered an explanation for the eccentricities of Canadians. "They tipped the continent sideways, and all the brains and nuts rolled west," British Columbian, too, have a reputation for eccentricity. One explanation for the province's success in the world of science-fiction is Vancouver-based *Concrete Ground*, a bi-monthly fan quarterly with a readership of 30,000. Its purpose, said editor and publisher Joseph Roberts, is to "entertain and inspire people" through articles on "history, ecology, personal growth, professional growth and creativity." Among other features, the magazine carries advertisements for New Age therapies and occultists. Association of most jobs.

"Team Housing is making changes. We will learn to release blocks from the human energy field."

"Infallible tips for gentle birthing. Experience the most gentle and least traumatic labor and birthing process... water birth! Great for Rebirthing, too!"

"Colon therapy... Colon therapy can remove toxins, constipation, flatulence, indigestion, gas, diarrhea, hemorrhoids, and breath, skin blemishes, excessive gas, and candida."

"Let me introduce you to *Banana*. As Antioxidizers of Lipids, Bananas will split and enlighten you with their information and know-how, which free living from the future, more 100 life years away."

POP MOVIES

Top grossers in Canada, ranked according to box-office receipts during the seven days ending Aug. 13. (\$ in brackets, number screens/weeks showing.)

1. <i>Deluge</i> (R)	\$2,777,406
2. <i>Dave</i> (R)	\$805,136
3. <i>Running Scared</i> (R)	\$646,000
4. <i>Page 86</i> (R)	\$527,566
5. <i>Aladdin</i> (G)	\$505,800
6. <i>Witness</i> (R)	\$434,000
7. <i>Along Came a Full Moon</i> (R)	\$424,000
8. <i>Back to the Future</i> (R)	\$350,000
9. <i>Mr. Money</i> (R)	\$328,000
10. <i>Star 80</i> (R)	\$280,700

Source: Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

ON A CLEAR DAY

It was a tall order: but Alvin Wasserman and Cameron Landell rose to the challenge. The two Vancouver-based advertising consultants were asked recently to come up with a way of encouraging mountain bikers to leave their fat-tired toads to the top of Blackcomb Mountain, the slightly taller but far less famous peak at the Whistler end of snow-covered Vancouver. Said Landell: "The most interesting point of difference between the two mountains is that, in the summer, the Blackcombs take bikers for higher into the alpine area, so that they can see much more." After pondering the problem, Wasserman came up with a line that his Whistler residents check out frequently: The position on tourist shelves around town read, "More views than politics."

My paddle, clean and bright?

As one of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the Canadian North, the Tachinashan-Niuk river system in northwestern British Columbia is so carefully protected that government regulations require tourists to carry out everything they bring with them. Now, critics claim that wilderness faces a potential danger. Vancouver-based Gertrude Amstrong Ltd. has applied to the B.C. government to develop a \$600-million copper, gold and silver mine 30 km from the junction of the two rivers, 1,500 km northwest of Vancouver.



So far, Environment Minister John Cashore has declined to take sides in the dispute, adding that he is waiting for the results of a last-year review. But the mine's recent decision to hire the firm of Briantham has given new hope to environmental activists. In June, Cashore and his wife Sharon spent 12 days rafting down the Tachinashan's wild and rapids waters. Said an obviously impressed Cashore, who paid for the \$5,000 trip himself: "I don't think I ever set foot on shore without seeing tracks of some kind of animal, usually wolf or bear." Depending on the outcome of the review, the future may bring tracks of a different kind.

WEIGHTY PERCEPTIONS

There may be truth in the old stereotype that West Coasters are more health-conscious than other Canadians. In a recent Gallup survey, 96 per cent of B.C. respondents said that they had exercised in the previous 24 hours, compared with a national average of 56 per cent. And in a tie with Atlantic Canadians for most defined calorie counters, 19 per cent of B.C. respondents said that they were on a diet, compared with 18 per cent in Ontario, 17 in the Prairies and 15 in Quebec. One possible reason for that body-consciousness: British Columbians, the poll indicates, are more likely to view themselves as overweight. Thirty-seven per cent of B.C. respondents said that they considered themselves to be too fat—more than in any other region. Still, the reality is probably more charitable than British Columbian's inflated self-perceptions: according to Statistics Canada, only about 33 per cent of Canadians between 20 and 64 are overweight.



PASSAGES

DEED: National Hockey League right winger John Kordic, 27, of apparent heart failure and died in his hospital, in hospital after a fight between him and police officers in his suburban Quebec City motel room. Motel staff called police to complain that the team elevator was screaming obscenities at them and striking his room. Police said that Kordic apparently knew he was taking drugs, along with muscle-relaxing drugs. They also said that they found alcohol syringes in his room, and autopsy results mentioned needle marks on one arm.



Photo: AP

DEED: Whistler trail judge John J. Sirica, 56, of cardiac arrest, in a Washington hospital, in 1993. Sirica told seven defendants to prison for beginning Democratic Party headquarters during the 1992 presidential campaign. His reluctant questioning revealed a conspiracy among union members of President Richard Nixon's staff to call a cabinet meeting involving Nixon himself. Nixon resigned on Aug. 8, 1974, under threat of impeachment.

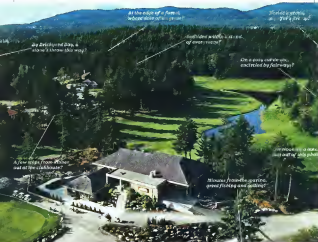
DEED: Radio-Canada story/broadcaster Louise Arcand, 48, who gained national prominence when she complained about age discrimination, of cancer, in Montreal. She was a news anchor at 40 in Montreal when the network replaced her with a 28-year-old

woman. Her appeal to the Canadian Human Rights Commission won her a \$5,000 settlement and another, off-air job.

DEED: Influential and controversial American composer and author John Cage, 79, of a stroke in Manhattan. He campaigned for throwing music from the confines of pitch and rhythm around. His 1937 (1950) concerts, which he was standing, clearly on stage for four minutes and 33 seconds.

DEED: The remains of Calagash, the high jumper who presided over the trial of James Earl Ray, were found in the Bahamas for analysis. Workers discovered his body in the water near James' two years ago, but archeologists only confirmed his identity last week.

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COMMUNITY

11 km north of Nanaimo, at Nanaimo Bay, Vancouver Island.

COLUMN



Visible assets fuel an economy

BY DIANE FRANCIS

British Columbia's most valuable asset is not its coal, timber or natural resources. Its riches are mostly masked by the fact that it is positioned geographically in a way that makes it one of the most beautiful places in the world. There is its enviable lifestyle, with its moderate climate and access to many outdoor activities in its lush surroundings. This has made it a chosen retirement haven for Canada's aging population. All of these blessings mean that the province will remain one of the richest in Canada, and the world.

That is not to say that mismanagement could not ruin this wonderful advantage. After all, people cannot eat scenery. And forestry—the perceived engine of economic growth—spurs due to unsustainable environmental practices and inefficient operations. But the province, dominated into other areas of economic endeavor, has outperformed, and will continue to outperform, Canada's economy as a whole in the short- and medium-term. That is because beauty, not resources, is becoming the province's real engine of economic growth.

This means that British Columbia is one of the luckiest places on earth. After all, coal, timber or minerals can be exhausted or the cost of exploiting them can be too high. Manufacturing grows and goes, becoming outdated or obsolete or uncompetitive. But an unspoiled scenery is a renewable, limitless "resource" in that it is something which attracts people and their money. And tourism can prosper, looking that the waters, hikers, hatters, restaurateurs or their various other price-conscious and competitive.

Poached geologists are already spawning growth spontaneously. Migrants, often from other colder parts of Canada, stream into this La La Land spending their savings and positions on recreation, products, travel and housing.

British Columbia's natural beauty underpins the province's wealth and its hopes for future prosperity

Immigrants from Hong Kong and elsewhere in the world pour into British Columbia's cities and towns, buying property, groceries and the good life. Tourism clamors to fill, fish, hike, drink, eat, gamble and be merry in surrounding areas as beautiful as any in Switzerland. Tourism contributes \$4.5 billion each year, according to a report by the Investment Dealers Association of Canada, and since 1986 has grown at the rate of eight per cent each year. Last year, some 16 million tourists visited the province and visitors from Japan formed the largest single group of overseas tourists.

Then there is permanent migration, as the population of the country continues to shift westward, along with economic activity. Total net migration (immigrants and those leaving) is about 10,000 people. Of net new arrivals, more than 40,000 come from other parts of Canada, the rest from foreign countries. Since 1971, British Columbia has grown from 2.7 million people to 3.3 million in 1991, enjoying dramatically the rate of population growth for the country as a whole. Canada grew to 29.3 million in 1991 from 21.6 million in 1971.

Of course, not everything is rosy. British Columbia may be North America's Switzerland

and Vancouver Island Canada's Florida. But Vancouver has also been the Armistice of the Western Hemisphere—a port that has attracted slinky elements from fly-by-night stock promoters to drug traffickers. There is also British Columbia's shady politics. Two out of its three previous premiers have been charged and dragged through embarrassing trials for all the world to see, before eventually being acquitted.

Forestry—considered the province's engine of growth because it represents 30 per cent of employment directly and indirectly—has serious problems. In 1990, the B.C. forestry industry lost a record \$800 million on revenues of \$3.04 billion and may lose up to \$200 million this year. While losses can be overcome with higher pulp, paper or timber prices—or a lower Canadian dollar—other problems facing the industry are shalelessness, U.S. protectionism and greatly reduced prices. Western Canada's Michael MacCallum estimates the B.C. industry needs to spend as much as \$500 million to catch up to its U.S. competitor over the next few years. While large, forestry's problems are not insurmountable, given the correct political will, sound strategy and less over-reliance on natural resources.

Despite problems, forecasts are rosy. British Columbia's gross domestic product, or the total value of its goods and services, grew to \$83.4 billion in 1991 from \$48 billion in 1983. And in 1990, as other provinces barely recover from the recession, the B.C. economy is growing. The Canadian Institute for Economics estimates that the province's economy will increase by 2.9 per cent in 1992 and 3.8 per cent in 1993 compared with the country's average of two per cent this year and 2.7 per cent next year. The Investment Dealers Association of Canada estimates a three-per-cent growth this year for British Columbia and the Conference Board of Canada suggests it will be the only province this year to experience any strong recovery.

Another reason for the growth is that, although the recent performance during the province was disappointing, it is still a place they have been turned out of power, their track record in terms of government management is the best in the country. The provincial debt of \$9.8 billion represents only 32 per cent of gross domestic product compared with the provincial average debt equivalent of 50 per cent of gross domestic product. This translates into lower personal, corporate and commercial taxes than most other provinces, plus no general tax on business capital or payroll. But the spendthrift New Democrats are a worry about the future.

The fiscal position of British Columbia is in far better shape, reflecting conservative fiscal management through the boom 1980s," says the Investment Dealers Association report. "Manufacturing and service sectors have blossomed and diversified through the 1980s. Closest economic links with Asian markets, better access to U.S. markets through the Free Trade Agreement and the entrepreneurial drive provided by immigrants have been positive factors."

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The people of the province boast of only one identity: that they are different

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

More than a decade ago, when I first decided to leave what was then Canada's Empire City (now known as Toronto), I sought the advice of Christopher Newton, artistic director of the Shaw Festival, where I was then a governor, and asked him about British Columbia. Newton had spent years directing experimental plays in Vancouver and still kept a house there. "It's painfully beautiful," he told me, "but makes for busy theatre. No matter what you do, you're always competing with God."

In the intervening dozen years, I have become an enthusiastic citizen of the Pacific province, a resident of Deep Cove, and now happily return to Toronto only on alternate leap years. But Newton's comment stuck with me, and as I turn more about this heavenly hunk of geography, I realize how right he was. This is a place like no other. Life here really does seem blessed, a proving ground for the soul.

In Toronto, the people I know seem to parade their troubles, sensibilities like trophies, worried with social anxiety about the probability of genocide in Bosnia and the possibility of a devastating meltdown of the air-conditioning in their new homes on the first. At best, they can offer only a polite goodnight to reality.

Here, in *La-La-Land*, you are allowed to do everything except be detached from the night, norms and rituals of your surroundings. Despite all those old, tired clichés about this being a lonesome land, most British Columbians work just as hard as any other unappetizing Canadian. But they also play hard and they tend to live more in harmony with the tanning seasons, the eternal rising of the tides and the magic grace notes of the sunsets.

The difference has something to do with British Columbia being a frontier—in the sense you can escape to, and still have medicine. Further, people live on the edge, operating according to their own rules. Most British Columbians were not born here (people who arrived more than two decades ago) in considered a foreigner (but) so there are few traditions and not much history. Most folks consider themselves citizens as much of their time as of their place. That means they invest plenty in their own comforts, but disavowingly little in their communities.

Philanthropy is very much an imported art form. It began on a large scale with the 1940

arrival of the Kaiser's loot from Czechoslovakia, and is now being carried on by other newcomers, such as David Lam, the province's Hong Kong-born lieutenant governor, who gives away up to \$5 million a year; Peter Wu, who came from Ukraine and recently donated \$15 million to the University of British Columbia; as well as Tom and Cathy Chan from Hong Kong who, at the same momentously, gave the same university \$10 million.

The tsunami of Hong Kong money flooding into Vancouver is transforming the city, creating a brand new, Oriental power structure. It is a sign of the times that the Vancouver Club (which still doesn't allow non-members) admitted Chinese-Canadian (Tong Loon, Chin Guan and Bob Lee) before it opened its doors to any Jews. The Bank of Montreal recently launched an 18,000-square-foot Asian Banking Centre that has a lobby aquarium with rare fish, the Chinese symbol for business longevity. The newcomers have quickly become the province's most dynamic citizens.

The B.C. population is growing at twice the national average and the recession is something we associate with Bob Rae's Ontario. Even our local politicians, a bevy of hard as they try, his opponents can't make Mike Hancock look so much frightened. With his cut-throat sunglasses, carrying 200 lb. in a six-foot, three-inch frame, and the appearance of a semi-truck apocryphal, the editorial cartoonists have a tough time portraying him as anything more vicious than a walking meatache.

Frontiers aren't pilgrims. British Columbians boast of only one identity: that they are different. Nothing makes them angrier than some people-labeled Ontario provincial or politician, pontificating about "the West"—a term designed to include everything on the Pacific side of the CN Tower. "As a British Columbian," says Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell, "I prefer to call British Columbia the True West, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are the Near East, Ontario and Quebec the Middle East, and the Atlantic provinces the Far East."

British Columbia also happens to be the home of 28 Indian First Nations and they're all on the west.

Life here is somehow reminiscent of a comment made by the mad knight in Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote*. In a rare moment of lucidity Quixote asks the reader to join him in "tasting off the melancholy burden of sanity." That's it. Welcome to British Columbia.



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ACTION AND HIGH ENERGY

BRITISH COLUMBIANS CONFRONT RADICAL CHANGE

British Columbia, by any measure, occupies the most spectacular scenery of Canada's vast estate. But it is its people who have constructed for their province a unique role in Canada. They have created an outdoor lifestyle that mixes high-energy work in forestry, fisheries, mining and skiing with high-action play. They nurture several aboriginal arts, and represent in some ways. Their politics has made the province a combat zone for the environmental right and the democratic left, leaving little middle ground. British Columbians look as much toward to Asia as to the south and the east for clues to their future prosperity. Now, with remnants of their well-being menaced by a changing global economy and a recession that struck the Pacific coast later than elsewhere, British Columbians are coping with radical change. But Quinn Maclean's Vancouver bureau chief until 1988, chronicles the changes taking place throughout the year and the needs of a changing of citizens from various walks of life. His report.



Corbett is in the forests and mills, the pressure on jobs will only increase

1980s from near Grassy, Que., to work as a logger, then as a mill hand and as an associate with the International Woodworkers of America. Ron Corbett, born and raised in the island town of Nanaimo (population now about 18,000), started working during the summers in the

local sawmill while he was attending high school. And after two years studying recreation administration at Malaspina College in Nanaimo, he returned home in 1977. But even then there were signs of change in the community.

Corbett, who lives in a four-bedroom home with his wife, Jill, and their three children, recalls that in the early 1970s, "they would list the two leading places in Canada as per-capita income in Okaville, Que., and Port Alberni." In those years, he notes, "you would get your applications in at the mills around town and that night you'd get four or five calls." The mill where he worked while he was in high school then employed 1,300 people. Now that mill provides about 480 jobs.

The last recession a decade ago damaged the forest industry in general and Port Alberni in particular. After news layoffs in 1982, Corbett himself got a logging job in Lillooet on the B.C. mainland, returning home when a job finally opened at Port Alberni. For the past 18 months, he has worked as a welder, assessing the volume and grade of wood in cut trees. Other jobs have disappeared for men with as much as 30 years' experience. Last year, a local planned mill closed, leaving the town with two sawmills and a pulp mill. "In the past four years, about 1,000 people in town have lost their jobs," he says. Like others in the industry, Corbett says that the slower pace of logging is dictated not only by economic conditions but by environmental concerns, and arrests. And he has heard words for outsiders who seem to be disrupting life in Port Alberni, where "you can still buy a decent house for \$70,000, and nobody I know wants to put the rice in Vancouver," says Corbett. "It is really frustrating that the decisions affecting our future are made by some committee in Victoria or Vancouver, by some environmentalist, or at some bloody boardroom in Toronto."

He questions whether environmental activists even know that "we've logged some growth in forest that was logged in the 1930s and 1950s, and that in another 80 years it will probably be logged again." People criticize the clear-cutting of entire forests, Corbett notes. "But on the slopes we work—some 500-acre grid grids—we cut selectively, it's impossible." The protesters "play on the dissonance, bring themselves from bridge or camp areas and want themselves with excitement, and it never fails—they are always on TV."

Environmental concerns, along with mechanization, changes in technology and recession, have contributed to a 14-per-cent reduction in the allowable cut in the forests of the Port Alberni region. The pressure on jobs will only increase, Corbett predicts. "These preservationists will go off and save the seals, or the whales, or whatever's out, and those of us without jobs will follow them." He says that his son Matthew is unlikely to become a logger and his father



Doss: historic steps into the province's first police service run by an aboriginal community

into forestry. "The days of just putting your nose in and getting a handout of phone calls that evening are long gone."



Deborah Doss leaves her 18-month-old son, Vance, on her knee in her home adjacent to the Department of Fisheries office in Lillooet, before the start of a summer of aspen and some driving northwest at Vancouver. Doss is attempting the little battle she holds, the earlier authority here, the training, and the recent ceremony applauded by provincial and federal politicians, Doss, 22, contends that has been "a very busy time" in her life. It has also been a historic one for Doss, and for British Columbia's native peoples generally. Near the end of July, she and her colleagues were sworn in to the province's first police service administered by an aboriginal community. The new officers have the same authority as police forces in other British Columbia municipalities, and their protection covers seven of the 50/50/50 Nations communities surrounding Lillooet.

For Doss, her first official day on the job, Aug. 10, was the successful conclusion of four years of determined effort. Doss and her three sisters were born in Lillooet, but are members of the 500-strong Squamish Band, whose reserve is 15 km from the town of 1,500. Her life, she says, "has not always been that great." Although she completed high school years ago at Capilano College in Vancouver, by 1984, a single mother with a son, Steven, then 3, Doss was working as a clerk and cashier in a corner store in her home town. Then, an older sister suggested that she should apply to become a pilot, parapsychologist, a security officer or the reserves. "I wasn't convinced, but I was con-

vinced," Doss recalls. But finally, after longer consideration, she says, "I applied and was accepted."

After about eight weeks of police training in Lillooet, "we ended up having to go through the training twice," and Doss. "We had completed the course, but we weren't recognized by the province. There was a lot of political stuff involved." She then went on to six months of police academy training at the Justice Institute of British Columbia in Westbank, in the Okanagan Valley. "It was the same course, the same training," she said, but that finally qualified her and her fellow native candidates to serve as the equivalents of municipal police officers. And now, after completing 10 weeks of field training with the RCMP, Doss is ready on the beat.

The primary responsibility of Doss and the other new officers is patrolling the area reserves at Poodlo, Cayoosh, St. Peter's, Portage, Mount Carmel, Anderson Lake, Fortman and Lillooet, where Doss' station is. Doss of the reserves, Doss and her four male colleagues, like other municipal police officers throughout the province, possess the full power to enforce the law.

With grace, Doss explains the shoulder crest on her tribal police uniform, an eagle with a circle of four arrows below the circle of feathers. Said Doss, "Native peoples have a lot of respect for an eagle, and it is in the culture of the arrows. They point in the four different directions and also represent the four seasons—red, yellow, black and white—combined in a single arrow. Feather below the circle stand for the 11 bands who live in the S'K'W'W'X' territory."

Doss is under no delusions that the native community truly supports the native officers. "Some are opposed," she said quietly. "My life has not always been the easiest, but

I've decided to act in that hold me back. I am the only one that can change it and make it better, and that's what I've done. It's been rough, but it has been worth it."

The wind had an edge to it, but at 9 a.m. on Nov. 27, 1986, at least it was not rain, which is unusual for Vancouver at that time of year. Daniel Sitman, a helicopter pilot barely 36 years old, watched from the tarmac of Vancouver Harbour Helicopters as another pilot lifted off on the inaugural flight of Helix Airways. Sitman, born in England, a resident of Vancouver since he was 15, recalls that he envied the pilot. Helix, with the first license ever granted in Canada to operate helicopters on a scheduled passenger service, was largely his brainchild, and he was president of the new company. He also remembered a sobering thought: "When that helicopter took off for Victoria, I figure we were about \$1.5 million in the hole."

For three "head-to-head" years, says Sitman, Helix struggled financially, turning eight return trips a day across the Strait of Georgia between Vancouver and Victoria. But now, with those times as easy as daily flights on that route, the helicopter company is expanding into British Columbia's fastest growing tourism, tourism. On June 29, Helix began operating three flights a day, seven days a week, to the alpine-filled Whistler mountain resort, expanding a one-day service launched at the end of last year and from the playground community, 120 km north of Vancouver.

The genesis of Sitman's project had its beginning almost 20 years ago. After bouncing around from England to Brazil, Quebec and Ontario as his father pursued a career in the aerospace industry, Sitman was working as a chef at a restaurant on Ramsey Island, west of Vancouver. One day, a helicopter landed in a nearby park. The pilot, explaining that his client had failed to show up, offered Sitman a ride. "After that little run, I thought it would be interesting to do that for a living," he recalls. Four years later, Sitman started his commercial helicopter pilot's license and began flying for forestry and mining companies in the north.

Then, in 1983, Sitman and two partners bought a four-passenger Gaselec light helicopter for \$150,000 and tried, with limited success, "to develop a corporate clientele, affluent people who wanted to move around." Facing financial failure, they hatched the plan for the Victoria commuter service, obtained a license in Ottawa in 1985, and leased a 13-passenger Bell 412 helicopter. They rented a hangar and office at the airport, hired a staff of 16, and launched their service that November morning in 1986. Six years later, Helix has a staff of 230 and runs 12-passenger Sikorsky S-176A helicopters on more than 20 daily Vancouver-Victoria return flights, the highest-frequency scheduled service between two points in North



Sitman: a boost to tourism by flying affluent people to a mountain resort

America. At \$228 (plus tax) per return ticket, Helix, now a public company, records annual sales of over \$10 million.

In marketing the newly expanded Whistler schedule, "we promote the destination, not just our services," says Sitman. Helix is building links with Carley Pacific and Jaguar Air Lines, because "our studies show that a large percentage of the people going up to Whistler are from offshore, particularly the Pacific Rim."

Life is more secure now for the president of Helix Airways. He and his wife, Lynn, a native of Ottawa, Ont., and their 21-year-old daughter, Cora-Rose, want the arrival of a son. But just as he did on a windy morning almost ten years ago, Sitman has his eye on the



When Yargo Rhewell went to work on a routine job in 1971, he in Vancouver was simpler and cleaner. And he had no sense to match. "You think you're going to go out there and see the world and get rid of crime," he recalls. Now, at 42, as a detective in the Vancouver police department's Asian crime section, he says that

"of course, that all this sport in show news you see realize that you are not the white knight in

Rhewell: "I guess there is still a little bit of white knight left in me"



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shining across." And it is becoming ever more difficult, and dangerous, to hold on to profitable jobs, especially on the mainland where crime rates have become a growth industry. "When I started, there was very little fear of a guy carrying a gun or a knife, but now guns and knives are commonplace," says Ehwel. "What we find now from our informants, and prove by our arrests, is that organized gangs have access now to fully automatic weapons, both handguns and rifles—which is the really scary part."

Vancouver now is Canada's murder capital at per capita rates, with 4.15 homicides per 100,000 of population last year, compared to Montreal's 2.9 and Toronto's 2.6. Police list the gang names—Big Circle, Lotus, Red Dog, Viet Chang, P.Y. Dragons—that have made a business out of drug trafficking, credit card and cheque fraud, counterfeiting, prostitution, extortion, kidnapping and home invasions, where gangsters terrorize victims to extract cash and other valuables. "There is certainly a lot more violence," says Ehwel. "Whether that be the ultimate, murder, or assault, they have greatly increased over the years."

As a Vancouverer in the 1960s, as immigrant with his family from sub-tropical Nanjing in what his parents, father, Looi called "the land of opportunity where you get treated well and make lots of money," Ehwel remembers quite a few nights at first. Not knowing a word of English, young Vego often interpreted the other boys' comments as threats or jokes after finishing high school, he went to Nanjing and worked for a year, but then returned to Vancouver and joined the forces.

Ehwel has walked beats from downtown to skid row, worked as a clandestine officer in a special strike force, served in the scene as assassin, enforcer, and drug courier. He walked undercover alongside the RCMP and for 10 years, along with other duties, was a member of the emergency response team. In October, 1982, he joined the Asian crime scene. During that time, he and his wife, Margaret, have raised two children, 14 and 16, and Krutepier, 15. Over the years, much else has changed. For members of the Asian crime scene, the changes have been drastic.

Vancouver police first became aware of the presence of an Asian gang in 1965, one that they were involved in catching. But in the past 20 years, Asian gangs have become a major criminal force in North America, particularly in port cities. The kidnapping for ransom and the murder of restaurant manager James Ming and his wife, Lily, in 1983, a case that struck national news, led to the formation of the Asian crime section. The gang members, says Ehwel, are mostly recent immigrants. He says that "a lot of the gang members that are using the violence came from mainland China, Vietnam, or Korea, where things were violent to begin with. Most of them were criminals before they came here. The gang members, they become criminals in the violence camps. These are the people who are the most violent, not your homegrown hoods," Ehwel says that



McGuire at the helm of a salmon boat, and her life

only tougher immigration screening and harsher sentences for violent crimes can help solve the problem.

Even now that the Vancouver force maintains contacts with Asian crime police units across North America, Ehwel says that "I don't think we can ever win, but we can keep it in check. We're not going to win unless there is a hard stance taken by immigration and the courts." Frustrations are frequent, the victims few, but Ehwel says that he is going to stick with his job. "I guess there is a little bit of that white knight left in me," he says.

"When you do get me deported, or even just a long sentence, it makes it all kind of worth it."



There was that starlit night in 1987 when the 50-foot Prince of Wales cruise ship was off the Queen Charlotte Islands, sick in lean than a murder, and Capt McGuire and four fellow crew members found themselves cold and wet in a skiff staring at wonder as the glow of the Queen's lights slowly disappeared into the black bay waters. And there was a waxy day the following season when the boom broke and smashed into her head, splatting blood across the deck, before sliding down to almost stop off her right arm as it

afflicted compound fractures. And these were

the two years of violent verbal harassment from a crewmate—"I kept thinking up the most cutting responses, only making him worse, until I finally just completely ignored him and he, well, stopped." But with a lurch that comes easily and heavily, Capt McGuire's wife's, McGuire, 37, says that she loves her life as a cook on a salmon seiner out of Prince Rupert, and would not trade it for her old one, or any other one.

McGuire is accustomed to being at the helm of her life, and son of a sailor whenever she is called upon to take over from the spouse. Born and raised in Calgary with six sisters and two brothers, McGuire sums up one period of her life by saying, "I got married at 17, had a child at 18, and a divorce at 19." While caring for her son, "always called Willie" (now 18) last year at the University of Victoria, she earned a communications degree at the University of Idaho in 1979. Later, back in Calgary, she worked as a freelance writer and a television news anchor. But in 1983, during the lean seasons, "the bottom fell out of everything, so I

the does not see a bright future for the fishery. "There is the fresh salt air, and the gorgeous scenery this country has, and the tremendous immediacy to the job," says McGuire. "What you're doing, and the value of what you're doing doesn't depend on anyone else's opinion or whims."

But the opportunities to escape that anything life is shrinking. Bums are getting more efficient, but costs are rising. "The industry is just up tightly in terms of boats and licenses, and is shrinking dramatically in terms of its labor force," McGuire says. "There will be



Chen: "we have no second thoughts about living here"

fewer boats and fewer people to catch the next season of fish."

But with her eye on wider horizons, McGuire plans more cruises in hopes of coming on a deep-sea mission. And with her hearty laugh, she said that when Willie recently called an interest in fishing. "I told him he was too dangerous. He's going to get his degree and wait a while."



Dwight Chen works as a business and has helped British Columbia defy the recession—real estate. The housing industry has opened the province, especially the Lower Mainland area, where more than half of British Columbians live, from the worst consequences of the recession now gripping the country. A price index he says

published during the new home represents a slowdown from a hot market in the late 1980s. But it is stronger than most of the rest of the country, where prices generally resumed flat, or, particularly in southern Ontario, declined. And Chen, 45, is enjoying growing sales of antiques in British Columbia, who maintain trans-Pacific links that enable them, and the province generally, to benefit from keeping their business open as more than one market.

Chen owns and operates a RedMax real estate franchise in Vancouver that employs 10 to 30 sales agents. In 1990, just as the local

market began to cool after two years of soaring prices, he opened a branch in his native Hong Kong. While waiting for a commercial recovery in Canada, Chen says, "the opportunities right now are back there." But, newly married and planning to buy a home himself, Chen adds that he has no intention of moving back to Hong Kong.

He says that he felt differently after he first arrived in Vancouver on a date named Chen's birthday, Feb. 18, 1974, with his parents, his brother and two sisters. Their move fulfilled a dream by Chen's businessman father, Lionel, ever since he had been captured by Vancouver during a mid-1960s visit. But for Dwight Chen, "My first thought was, 'I want to go back.' Chen said that he had been impressed for a city that would surpass Hong Kong, with its modern skyscrapers. "Here, we were looking at one- and two-story buildings," he says. "Instead of 50 years ahead, Vancouver looked 50 years behind."

Chen, who had earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Hong Kong's Chinese College, began his new life in hotel jobs, then banks to start manager, named to selling insurance and then, in 1980, to real estate, opening his present firm in 1986. His business has been helped by Asian property investments. Although that is a relatively small part of the total, he says, "it represents a strong injection of confidence, and acts like a momentum sometimes for the local market to keep going."

On frequent visits to Hong Kong, his frenetic pace and his business opportunities remain fascinating for Chen, but he says that he no longer has a desire to live there. Returning to his March birth, Miranda, 28, also Hong Kong-born and whose maiden name also happened to be Chen (they met four years ago while she was attending Simon Fraser University), Dwight Chen says he has never been away from Hong Kong for more than a few days. "It is beautiful, cosmopolitan, a good mixture of East and West. I personally regard it as paradise." ■



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SPLENDOR, GAIN AND GROWTH

British Columbia's official motto, *Splendor Sin Oris* (splendor without ornament) boasts of the province's spectacularly scenic mixture of mountain ranges, powerful rivers, ocean, farms and forest. Its land emblem is the dogwood flower.

British Columbia is the only province with two land borders on the United States—Alaska to the northwest, Washington, Idaho and Montana on the 49th Parallel. The southern border was established by treaty between Britain and the United States in 1846 over an issue Americans campaigned to extend their West Coast border with British North America under the slogan "54-40 or fight" (the parallel of latitude, 54 degrees, 40 minutes) that marks the southern end of the Alaska Peninsula. Alaska, then Russia, was purchased by the United States in 1867. Imperial Britain yielded to the United States in a 1903 settlement that resolved most points of difference over the Panhandle border. But the seaward border at the Dixon Entrance to the Portland Canal remains in dispute.

Capt. James Cook, the British navigator-explorer, anchored in Nootka Sound on the Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island from March 29 to April 26, 1776, setting up Britain's claim to the coastal lands. Capt. George Vancouver followed Cook to the B.C. coast in 1792, relieving that claim. For the North West Co., the Montreal-based fur trading corporation founded in 1783 in the face of American competition, explorer Alexander Mackenzie reached the Pacific overland on July 22, 1782, near present-day Bella Bella. James' other company men who followed, overland and by river, Simon Fraser reached the mouth of the mighty river that bears his name in 1805. The British built Fort Victoria in 1843.

Vancouver is home to more than two of five British Columbians, and an increasing influx of immigrants from other parts of Canada and overseas. The Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area rose in population by 18.1 per cent between 1986 and 1991 to 1,560,586, compared with 13.4 per cent for the Toronto CMA (2.5 million) and seven per cent at the Montreal CMA (2.1 million). Expo '86, celebrating Vancouver's 100th anniversary, tallied more than 22 million visits to its 54 national pavilions and other wonders from May 2 to Oct. 13, 1986. Its legacy includes the rapid-transit SkyTrain and millions of happy memories.



The 1846 treaty delineating British Columbia's southern border permitted Vancouver Island (and the B.C. capital, Victoria) to get south of the 49th Parallel. But the boundary sliced through the mainland peninsula of Point Roberts, south of the city of Vancouver. The 530 permanent U.S. residents south of that line must travel through Canada to get to the U.S. mainland by road.

The British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Vancouver in 1954 are remembered as the stage for a historic one-mile footrace, the first when two runners finished in under four minutes. On Aug. 7, Britain's Roger Bannister, who had first breached the four-minute barrier earlier that year, overtook Australia's John Landy on the final turn and won in 3:55.15, with Landy eight-tenths of a second behind him.

Nov. 7, 1855, when C.P. financier Donald Smith drove "the last spike" to join the R.C. line to the main line in Eagle Pass at Craigellachie, near Revelstoke.

Canadians have been moving west to British Columbia by the tens of thousands in recent years, and many have found Easterners enjoying the countryside. National census figures from 1986 and 1991 show that, in the five-year span, 124,158 more Canadians moved into British Columbia than moved out.

In the same period, all other provinces except Ontario lost net population gains from interprovincial migration, and Ontario's net gain from such moves, of 70,000 people, was barely more than half as great as British Columbia's. During the 12 months before the 1991 census alone, British Columbia's net gain from other provinces numbered 40,540 people, according to estimates by Statistics Canada.



A POPULATION EXPLOSION

British Columbia, third among the provinces in area as well as population (after Ontario and Quebec), is about three times the size of the Maritime provinces on the opposite coast.

Canada's fastest-growing province, British Columbia saw its population quadruple in the past 66 years to number 3,282,547 in 1991. When the British colony joined Confederation as July 20, 1871, its official population was 32,247, but that tally excluded native Indians as well as Chinese immigrants from Colombia, attracted by the Canine gold rush in the early 1860s.



In the Pacific port city that ended on July 21, the crops of Vancouver and Prince Rupert together handled a record total 18,094,200 tonnes of Canadian export grain and a record 241,192 railway carloads. Previous records about 17 million tonnes of grain in 1965-1966 and 205,951 carloads in 1966-1967. In July alone, the West Coast grain ports set a handling record for a single month, with 2,951,000 tonnes shipped.

The transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway, promised by Ottawa to be built by 1881 as an inducement to lure British Columbia into Confederation, was completed four years behind schedule, on

outstripping all other provinces. British Columbia led in the growth of aggregate wages and salaries paid monthly, according to April estimates by Statistics Canada—up by 3.7 per cent in a year (in \$2.62 billion), more than twice the growth rate of 1.3 per cent in Ontario as a whole.

British Columbia recorded the highest 1991 crime rate among provinces, with 15,901 offences per 100,000 people (Alberta was second at 12,106). Among Canada's three largest cities, Vancouver led in the homicide rate last year, with 4.15 killings per 100,000 of population (up from 3.66 in 1990), compared with Montreal's 3.45 (3.92) and Toronto's 2.70 (2.37). In 1991 vehicle deaths in British Columbia had a fatality rate of 102,000 of population at 1,434 (1,348 deaths) compared with Montreal's 1,205 (21,487 deaths) and Toronto's 476 (1,237 deaths).

In 1991, almost 8,000 immigrants in the investor and business categories, more than one-third of the total admitted to Canada, brought an estimated \$6.7 billion into British Columbia. In all, during the census year to June, 1991, British Columbia attracted 25,479 immigrants from abroad. More than 90 per cent of them settled in Vancouver.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME, B.C.

WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE BRITISH COLUMBIA
AND CHOOSE TO STAY

'Things are happening'

Two years ago, Montrealer Joan Calderhead, now 23, travelled to British Columbia to visit her parents, who had retired from Quebec to Sitka, Alaska. They suggested that she stay for a while. "One thing led to another and I just couldn't leave," says Calderhead, a graphic artist who is now a research assistant with the B.C. Ministry of Forests and a resident of Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

She says that she misses the Montreal weather "transitively, desperately" and finds that her new neighbors are often insular. "They think only B.C." But living in "the wild and mostly West is appealing," Calderhead says, and "there's real challenge out there, in a lot of places." Especially in the industry that employs her, "things are happening very quickly—we're actually changing things."



'Sort of a pristine place'

For many TV viewers, Ian Byrnes is Lil' Howard, the bearded, portly comedian who got around in a wheelchair in the CBS crime drama *Wings*, which ran for 5½ seasons until late 1999. But Byrnes, born 41 years ago in St. Louis, is better known as his adopted B.C. home as a polished blues singer-guitarist and part owner of Vancouver's Café Dingo. The low affair with the province began when he paid a visit in 1975, a year before he lost both legs when he stepped to help a mascot and was hit by another vehicle. During the next few years, he says, "I was travelling back and forth across the States and finding, everybody's gotta be somewhere," and a local timing of being in British Columbia. He returned in 1979, and now lives with his Vancouver-born wife, Delys, and four-year-old daughter, Celine, in a house they bought last year. Since then, he has appeared in several TV movies and toured with his Ian Byrnes Band in Europe. But the best part, he says, is coming home. "Compared to where I came from, this is still sort of a pristine place."

A COASTAL CONVERSION

Journalist Ian Hanomonting, a native of Sudbury, N.B., was down in British Columbia 3½ years ago, not by the prospect of free security or a kinder climate, but by the presence of lower

Nancy Trust. They married last August. By then, conceding the reporter for CBC TV's *The National*, his affections had broadened to include his picture-book surroundings. "People always



ward poets about Vancouver," says Hanomonting. "But I think it with a grain of salt until I moved here." Hanomonting, 30, has been on news assignments abroad and elsewhere in Canada the recently filed in an hour of the network's *News Magazine* in Toronto, but says that he would find it tough to leave his B.C. home permanently. "I love this city," he says simply.



CELEBRITY DINING

Thanks to Rebecca Dawson, the pro chef has become a Vancouver celebrity. It is actually a clone, a big one. And it is one feature of dishes built around food native to the Pacific Northwest. When Dawson became head chef at semi-famous Vancouver's Reliance restaurant in 1988, she began new experiments with regional seafoods, meats, berries, nuts and wildflower sauces, and wines. The Vancouver-born chef scooped out from Cove, steamed from Washington State, and the gourmet Pier Dumas, 32, now the chef instructor at Vancouver's Dalhousie French Culinary School, pioneering path. "I remember when tourist guides listed the Reliance as the only Pacific Northwest cuisine restaurant in the city," she says. "Now there are at least half a dozen."

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Alonso Sorrell's family moved to Vancouver from Mexico City 20 years ago to enable him to prepare for his later scientific and engineering studies at the University of British Columbia. Now 23, he heads a North Vancouver marine salvage company with global connections. Alonso M. Sorrell and Associates Ltd. has more recent achievement: raising a sunken rail ferry from Barcelona harbor to clear a course for the yacht races at the recent Olympic Games. "We came to Vancouver originally because it was one of the most peaceful cities, compared to the United States," says Sorrell. "Now it may not be a lot of travelling, but every time I come back to Vancouver, I am coming home."

Changing an image

When he was a boy, says Leonard George, the 45-year-old chef at British Columbia's 240-room Burrard Hotel of the Coast Salish, North American Indians were seldom portrayed "as characters, not as people," especially by Hollywood. Alutaians have changed since then, says George, and he knows as a actor, having posed the 1970 movie *Little Big Man*, which made a star of his

father, Chief Dan George, whose dignified performance won him an Oscar nomination. "That was the beginning of the breaking of a Hollywood image," says Leonard George. Now he is following his father, not only having studied acting at a community college, but also as an Indian activist. "Today we are talking about prohibition on our lands and people," he says. "And that is really exciting."



The art of success

After Dase Farris opened an art gallery in Vancouver in 1986, she recalls, "people used to tell me that I couldn't be a successful international art dealer in British Columbia." Her response: "They've got a lot of machines and we've got an art dealer, so what's the problem?" There is no problem now. The Dase Farris Gallery is listed in a Farris-published guide to the

world's top 200 galleries. Among the 32 artists she represents in Edmonton-born artist Richard Lufkin, whose classical-oriental paintings are widely exhibited, and sold in Europe and elsewhere. But she maintains art her business, says Vancouver-born Farris, 46, consists of work by talented British Columbian artists. Declares Farris: "We are as good as anyone, anywhere."

RADIO SHOCK WAVES

Not even local politics or wet snow on the ski slopes upsets a British Columbian quite as much as Toronto and Ottawa. A sense of being ignored and overlooked by the Toronto-Ottawa axis makes Central Canada's leading local target for abuse. And now, a recent episode that aired on provincially broadcast radio late last week with 130,000 listeners, he heads Canada's most popular night-market radio talk show for three hours each weekday morning on CLOW. Of his home town, Mac says: "I travel a lot and know there are other cities like Vancouver, but I don't think there are any better." As evidence, Mac 60, cites a joking comment by one of several social political, business and labor leaders at a reception marking Mac's centennial last month. That gathering, it was said, was "the most eclectic in recent Vancouver history—and no blood was spilled."



one assistant deputy minister. It now has four, each earning a salary of between \$90,000 and \$112,000. Three years ago, the ministry's Ottawa and Quebec City offices each had two full-time staff members. Now, there are several positions in Ottawa and five in the Quebec capital. On top of that, Ontario's Office of Constitutional Affairs and Federal-Provincial Relations has grown to 32 staff members from 12 in 1980. Said Jeff Abbott, the province's deputy minister for intergovernmental affairs: "Our constitutional affairs staff has increased because that's the main game in town now. But in addition to salaries, we've seen a lot of travel costs, flying people across the country." A similar bureaucratic expansion has occurred in Ottawa. Allan Clark accepted the job of constitutional affairs minister in April, 1991, the federal government spent nearly \$40 million to create the new ministry and to double the number of federal-provincial relations staff, for one thing. The number of people employed in the 1700 constitutional affairs jobs has crossed to 26 from five in 1989. Officials from the Privy Council Office, the justice department and the secretary of state have also been seconded to the constitutional file. And according to federal records, Ottawa has spent at least \$400,000 on polls to gauge public attitudes on constitutional issues—surveys that the government now refuses to make public, despite a court action launched by federal information Commissioner John Grace.

Although the constitutional fight appears to have been a gray-toned affair for many observers, some of those consultants say that taxpayers received full value for their money. Ottawa's Mann, for one, says that he worked nights,

weekends and holidays during the 10 months he spent working for the PMO. Said Mann, whose contract ended in January: "The work was really intense. I think that money they paid for me was well-spent." He added: "I saw one of those people who are quite happy to no longer have the Constitution as a client."

Academics who have worked on constitutional issues also claim that, with the exception of a handful of large government contractors, the field has not been profitable. Few have been more vocalized than Patrick Monahan, a law professor who is also director of York University's Centre for Public Law and Public Policy in Toronto. He is co-editor, with colleague Kenneth McMillen, of a newspaper supplement titled "Canada Watch," and author of a 1990 book on the Meech Lake negotiations. Monahan says that he earned only \$3,000 from the 325-page book, which took six months to write. "I think it is a myth to say that people are making a fortune on the constitutional industry," he added. "Academics in this country—and certainly in law—are less well-paid than their counterparts in the private sector."

Some scholars even argue that their colleagues should not take government contracts on constitutional issues. Says University of Manitoba law professor Bryan Schwartz: "It's time for a serious look at this. Politicians can't speak freely because they're subjected to party discipline, so you should have an academic and journalist community serving as independent critics. Then, you discover that an awful lot of people who should be giving you informed and independent opinions are getting huge salaries of money from the federal government."

Now that the political negotiations appear to be entering their final stages, the flow of money to academic advisers will become a trickle. By contrast, government spending on public relations advisers is sure to continue and probably increase—particularly if the federal government decides to stage a national referendum on the Constitution. Elections Canada alone has projected that it would have to spend between \$5 million and \$7 million on a media campaign to inform Canadians about the referendum process. Taxpayers may cringe at the thought, but for political consultants, the constitutional gray train continues to roll.

GLEN ALLEN with LURE FISHER & KAYE FULTON and MARCY WOOD in Ottawa and PAUL KADALA in Toronto



Holmes: "Let's face it—I'm ahead of the thinking."

going to embrace" the go.

Also expressing dismay were many members of the opposition. Holten's wide circle of friends, including his old associate, Brian Mulroney, in Ottawa, the Prime Minister's guested a reporter's question on the issue with very dubious dis-

missing Holten's actions as inconsequential. "In political terms, it is by no means an earthquake."

Only the regulars at Grumpy's, long to avoid in Holten's quip-to-be-honored, those to be the most likely. "This is a great day for federalism," said Montreal City Councilor Nick Adair. Said Mann, citing Holten's unblemished record of accurate election forecasts: "Dick's better than chicken orzo." And several Montrealers, including that Holten has not taken his absolute desk in eight months, remarked dryly: "It's the worst advertisement I've ever seen for going on the wagon."

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THE RIGHT STUFF?

NEW CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE IS LEADING TO A REASSESSMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hong Kong businessmen consider the Canadian citizenship brought society for his wife and three daughters—and turned him into a millionaire overnight. Ng, who immigrated to Canada in 1983, decided to file the British-controlled colony on China's southeast coast, where the Chinese announced that they intended to take the capitalist enclave back in 1997, the year that Britain's 100-year lease on Hong Kong expires. But once in Vancouver, Ng said, they found the pace of life too slow and the opportunities to make money even more sluggish. And just months after he arrived, he left his family behind in Vancouver and returned to the colony, where he launched a chain of grass restaurants, which he is now expanding into nearby southern China. In fact, many former Hong Kong residents have returned to take advantage of Hong Kong's and China's booming economies, earning the nickname "returnees" because they spend so much time flying across the Pacific. "The growth potential in Asia will be huge in the next few years," says Ng. "With a population of 1.3 billion people, China is the undisputed potential of Canada's natural resources."

Three years ago, that bullish optimism about living under Chinese rule in the future was all but impossible to find in Hong Kong. In fact, on June 4, 1989, when the People's Liberation Army crushed China's 1989 pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, Hong Kong allowed the anti-people angry mob to take the streets to protest and thousands of others, unwillingly dispersed to leave, accused Canada's immigration officials. Within months, about 300 would-be returnees fled Hong Kong for British Columbia every week.

But since then, relations between Hong Kong and China have warmed considerably. At the same time, the number of people applying to immigrate to Canada has dropped off sharply. Even so, as 1997 draws closer, some immi-

gration experts say that thousands of Hong Kong residents will once again seek security and freedom in Vancouver. "People realize that even though there are opportunities for some people to make a lot of money in Hong Kong, the future is volatile," said Hong Kong investment banker Michael Kao. "People know that they are taking tremendous risks by staying in Hong Kong after 1997."

Meanwhile, the province's reputation as a safe haven persists in Hong Kong. Vancouver's profile is so high in the British-run colony of 5.8 million people that it has become known locally as "Blugovener." It is a community where

wealth is highly valued. Hong Kong residents have noticed some of their richest companies leave for British Columbia, and almost 20 per cent of Vancouver's population is now made up of Chinese immigrants who are primarily from Hong Kong. As well, B.C. community colleges and universities recruit thousands of students from Hong Kong annually, and returning relatives and friends often rave about Vancouver's scenery and its moderate climate. Even Vancouver's Chinese restaurants are legendary in the colony. Said Vincent Lee, who runs an investment firm in Hong Kong: "Vancouver has the best Chinese food in all of North America, just as good as Toronto, New York City and San Francisco."

Still, some dissatisfied immigrants to British Columbia have returned to Hong Kong with a litany of complaints about their new homeland. Immigrants' consultation committees, which hold 10 to 25 per cent of Hong Kong immigrants return from Canada, and many of the returnees say that they were unable to obtain visas to their chosen countries. Others, like Ng, complain that the colonial government's lack-back policies and high Canadian taxes hinder their economic mobility. Many quickly—some of their prime objectives for moving in the first place—"Canada has been going in a wrong but bad news for the past three years," and Lee. "It's never ending. The constitutional problem, the debt problem. Some of us got fed up."

Making money was the driving force for

Hong Kong ever since 1985, when the British forced China's leaders to lease the territory to it following the first of a series of wars with China over the opium trade. After the Second World War, Hong Kong became a haven where refugees fleeing oppression in China could earn a living in relative freedom, and their British overlords, who opened the colony's big conglomerates, so-called Hongks, could turn

According to the 1984 Anglo-Chinese Accord, China agreed to allow Hong Kong to operate in much the same way for the first 50 years after they took over from the British.

Under a still evolving plan known as "two country, two systems," the colony is supposed to be allowed to keep its independent judiciary, partly elected legislature and free press. But many Hong Kong residents say that they still have grave doubts about the future. "It won't be smooth sailing," said Kao. "One country, two systems has never been tried before."

But Chinese state-owned companies have already promised heavily that the two-systems policy will succeed. According to a study by the University of Hong Kong, well over 3,000 mainland Chinese firms have already invested over \$12 billion in Hong Kong in transportation, telecommunications and other services. And, confidence in Hong Kong has been strengthened by the determination

of China's 85-year-old leader, Deng Xiaoping, to speed up liberalization of the Chinese economy. Earlier this year, Deng travelled to southern China where he called on political leaders to build several "Hong Kongs" on China's coast. According to Hong Kong-based integration consultant Richard Altshuler, Deng's statements and Hong Kong's booming economy have reduced fears about the colony's future and that has led to a drive to emigration. "We see very few people complaining out of a sense of urgency," said Altshuler. "That may increase as we get closer to 1997, but at the moment, there is much confidence in Hong Kong. I don't see any sense of urgency."

Largely as a result of the surging interest



Hong Kong skyline: some immigrants to British Columbia have returned to the colony with a litany of complaints

Chinese investment and the Communist nation's commitment to liberal economic reforms, the colony's economy is booming. According to Hong Kong government estimates, its real gross domestic product is expected to grow by five per cent in 1992, up from four per cent in 1991. And the combined value of all exports trading on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has more than doubled since the beginning of 1992.

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Even if China does ultimately take control of Hong Kong without seriously disrupting its economy and driving thousands of its citizens abroad, some business analysts say that British Columbia will continue to see a surge in investment and immigrants. Kao predicted that Hong Kong's position as the gateway to China will become even more pronounced after the 1997 transfer. And because Hong Kong residents already have so many commercial and family contacts in British Columbia, Canada's West Coast will prosper as well. "British Columbia is linked into Hong Kong, which is linked into China and southeast Asia," said Kao. "The China link has already been established; Brit-

ish Columbia is part of the chain now."

For the time being, however, interest in leaving Hong Kong appears to be waning. In 1990, a total of 17,880 Hong Kong residents applied for Canadian visas. But applications dropped to 45,870 in 1991, and only 8,381 people applied in the first six months of this year. And barely one in three people said that they intended to live in Vancouver. Despite the slowdown in applications, Hong Kong is still Canada's busiest immigration port. Said Robert Pridemore, a senior immigration counselor at the Canadian High Commission in Hong Kong: "Following Tiananmen Square, we just couldn't cope."

Although Hong Kong government has expanded along with the population shift, the colony's free-market economy has attracted many Chinese. Chinese lawns from Canada, said Lee. "I can make more money in a year in Canada. And I can do it almost tax-free." He added: "Investing in Canada right now is like hitting yourself against a wall. It's going nowhere." And Ng said that while he is happy to build a bright and secure future for his family in British Columbia, he continues to prosper financially in Hong Kong. Said Ng: "Vancouver is a nice place to visit and relax kids, but as far as business is concerned, it is very difficult."

While economists like Ng say that they have returned to the colony because they want to take advantage of its economy before 1997,

others point to Canada's weak economy as the reason for their decision to return. Said Kao: "A lot of young people are coming back, not because they don't like Canada, but because they can't earn enough money to sustain themselves."

The slow pace of life in Vancouver compared with the hectic and hectic of the colony troubles many new arrivals from Hong Kong. Altshuler added that while most of his clients chose Vancouver as their Canadian destination, they often find that the province's people lack a sense of urgency. "There's not that rush," said Altshuler. "They feel that they are going more to a retirement community rather than a business community."

The ties established in the late 1980s are still likely to hold into the next century. Close to 2,500 Hong Kong students are now studying at schools in British Columbia—almost half there at the university level. Said Dr. Anthony Chong, 52, president of the 300-member Hong Kong alumni association of the University of British Columbia: "A lot of my patients' sons and daughters express their wishes to go overseas to study and I recommend that they think about it." But it is Canada's ability to match the economic opportunities of Asia that will go farthest in determining if the tide of Hong Kong immigration ever becomes a flood.

TOM FENNEL with **FRANCES KELL** in Hong Kong

THE UNITED STATES

FINDING A ROAD TO NOVEMBER

BUSH FACES HIS RENEGADE REPUBLICANS

Her credentials are undeniably strong: Republican, a longtime and staunch believer in the Great Old Party, Elizabeth Rieck, 36, was at the core of the Republican movement in Louisiana in the 1970s, and a Ronald Reagan delegate in the 1980 and 1984 presidential election campaigns. But Rieck, nominated by the state party chairman as a Bush delegate this year, turned to her credentials last month. "I can't go as an advocate of George Bush to the Republican National Convention," said Rieck, who hadly insisted that the party didn't intend to run out of ideas and policies. "It's like going to a trade week," she said. "I'm not going to be a trade show for [Democratic] Clinton." "I'd consider voting for [Democratic] Clinton if I thought it were the right thing to do. It's really true, I mean something to be proud of. But I don't see a willingness to look within the party and change." "Paying for emphasis," she added. "George Bush symbolizes the decay in the party." It is Republicans like Rieck whose support Bush once coveted, has since lost, and will have to win back when he takes off his re-election campaign after the Republican National Convention in Houston this week.

But analysts say that it will be extremely difficult for the president to shake off his image as the leader of a party that has run out of ideas after 12 years in power. The 68-year-old Republican administration, they contend, must not only shore up its core support among dedicated right-wing Republicans, but will also have to attract moderate members of the party—especially middle-class baby boomers. To that end, the president announced last week that treated friend James Baker, who ran his successful 1986 campaign, would resign as secretary of state on Aug. 23 to become White House chief of staff and senior presidential counselor, a new post putting Baker at the center of Bush's re-election bid. His success in casting a badly divided party will determine whether Republicans secure another four years in the White House. Said Norville Toddman, editor-in-chief of *Commonsense*, the Manhattan-based journal of right-wing orthodoxy: "George Bush has not defined his point of view; he doesn't stand for anything which can inspire

support." Added Polakovic: "The Bush problem is in Micke's interpretation. In every era—foreign, domestic and economic policy—there is a belief in conservatism."

In fact, many Republicans acknowledge that Bush has not only squandered the Reagan legacy that he inherited four years ago, but he has also failed to build a new consensus to tackle many of the day. The bricks and mortar of Reagan's once-unassailable political fortress crumbled: Soviet expansionism abroad and fostered a free-market economy at home that undermined entrepreneurial energies through tax cuts and deregulation. But fears that neither Bush nor his party can fully understand as control have laid siege to that very fortress.

On his Cold War watch, Reagan rapidly built up the country's defenses—and defense industries. He poured enormous scientific and engineering resources into the military-industrial complex, while the United States' main enemies: Russia, Japan and Germany, devoted their resources to the civilian sector. And, economists claim, the Reagan administration failed to trade policy to serve his geopolitical goals, trading foreign access to America's burgeoning market for military alliances and bases. Said Jeffrey Garten, president of the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute: "The United States traded off its economic



advantages for political and military ones."

And, although Putin and others agree that Republican administrations can rightfully take some credit for the collapse of the "evil empire," no Reagan nor called the Soviet Union, they argue that the defense-oriented economy exacerbated the relative decline in American competitiveness. While postwar Japan and Germany improved their workers' skills and built up their technologies and infrastructure, public investment in the U.S. economy dried drastically. At a time, Japan and Germany have cornered the market on such products as cars, video and semiconductors—the foundation of a prosperous industrial economy. Said Jeffrey Garten, a managing director

Houston Astrochess: threats of a bitter convention-floor fight over abortion

of The Brookings Group, an influential New York research bank. "George Bush has not articulated a foreign policy for the 1990s after the Cold War. He has to have a foreign policy which addresses domestic economic goals."

It is the Democrats under Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton who are focusing on rebuilding the domestic economy as their main issue in the 1992 election. The Democrats, many analysts say, are better able to exploit the angst because of the legacies of presidents Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, who used the tools of government to repair the potholes in the country's infrastructure. The

Republican party, they say, has become more conservative and less interventionist at a time when Americans are calling for Washington to get the country moving again. Said Kevin Phillips, editor of the conservative *Redlands*, Md.-based *American Political Report*: "The Republicans can't recognize the old spirit. Bush can't deal with the grand strategy, he is in a bind for Keynes."

In any case, Bush is saddled with the weakness of an economy that slumped three years ago and shows few signs of recovery. Analysts say that the Reagan economic boom caused the fundamental flaw in the economy that had been building since the late 1970s. Real wages declined, the government borrowed heavily abroad to finance its tax cuts for the wealthy, and the balance of payments collapsed as Americans bought more than they sold. Eventually, jobs were lost and living standards for the suburban middle class—the bedrock constituency of the Reagan coalition—plumaged. Said Pincus: "The Bush people simply didn't see what he had."

Crises say that those problems have left Bush without policies even a strategy to deal with the Democrats. They maintain that the only campaign he can now run is to point Clinton, who inherits a \$5- to \$6-trillion budget over Bush in national opinion polls, as an underfunded, drift-dodging governor of a small two-state state who cannot be trusted to run the country. Said Republican political analyst Lyn Nodding: "He has to go and kick the ball out of

World Notes

AFRICAN BRIEF

The United Nations announced a plan to send 500 armed guards to Somalia within three to four weeks to control the port of Mogadishu and escort food convoys to millions of starving people in the East African country. A 10-year war agreement for the deployment from Macedonia's western Gov. Mohamed Farah Aidid, whose troops control a large part of the divided city. Besieged by drought and savage fighting between rival clans, hundreds of Somalis are dying each day of hunger, and hundreds of thousands have become refugees.

INTERNATIONAL MUSCLE

Amid mounting reports of death, destruction and hunger, the United Nations Security Council authorized the use of force, if necessary, to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and to safeguard inhabitants of the beleaguered city. The Israeli army's Yaguray republic. It also demanded access for the Red Cross to prison camps and detention centers throughout the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The United States, Britain, France, Russia and Belgium co-sponsored the resolutions.

AID TO ISRAEL

President George Bush said that he will ask Congress to approve up to \$12 billion in loan guarantees to help Israel absorb immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Bush made the announcement in Newswatch, May, after two days of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was prone for ending Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land.

TUBHUL IN GEORGIA

Georgian troops clashed with rebels in the heavily armed western region of Abkhazia after gunmen killed 12 senior government officials, including former Minister Roman Goshvashvili. Abkhaz, which declared independence from Georgia last month, is the base of overthrown president Zviad Gamsakhurdia. It has been the heartland of opposition to the government of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze since he took power early this year.

A WANTED MAN

A grand jury in Brooklyn, N.Y., indicted Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar and an alleged associate who works for him on charges of conspiring to bomb an airline that exploded over the South American country in 1989, killing 120 people, including two Americans. In Bogotá, the Colombian government offered a reward of \$1.4 million for Escobar, who escaped from jail last month.

CALIFORNIA

CLINTON 62 %
BUSH 28 %

"George Bush has to start campaigning and he has to go over his record and programs and make the sharp contrast between the very liberal, failed governor of a small state versus the leader of America."

—California Republican party chairman James Ogden

(Source: Riedt Institute)

TEXAS

CLINTON 43 %
BUSH 29 %

"In the voting booth, we have to get them to think about integrity, leadership, experience, values. The Democrats are trying to stir up issues that have been Republican for 50 years."

—Texas Republican party chairman Fred Myers

(Source: Houston Chronicle)

NEW YORK

CLINTON 58 %
BUSH 28 %

"I think what George Bush needs to do is define a vision for the next four years. I don't see any problems for the President."

—New York Republican party chairman William Powers

(Source: Political Media Research)

Bill Clinton and getting him as a winning slogan."

But such a strategy could backfire, because American voters have grown weary of mudslinging. As well, the president last week found himself in the uncomfortable position of defending his own actions. Rumors of a romantic liaison between Bush and a former aide, Jennifer Fitzgerald, have been circulating for years, and the *Wall Street Journal* renewed the controversy by publishing a story, based on a new book, alleging marital misconduct. Asked about the report at a news conference in southeast Iowa guarantees to limit, a stony angry Bush called the allegations "a lie" and accused reporters of pursuing "private interests." But the accusations against Bush underline his own family-oriented attacks on Clinton. Said a Republican pollster close to the Bush campaign, who spoke on condition of anonymity, "This campaign is Clinton. The only message we have is why Bill Clinton doesn't deserve the election, and that is the only message we're capable of delivering." But, he said, "I don't think the character issue is going to stick."

Bush appears most vulnerable on the economy. The collapse of Republicanism has led a devastating effect on the socially biased wing of the Republican coalition. Many Republicans who considered themselves conservative on economic policy but moderate on social issues



Bush in the Oval Office under attack from all corners for not having "the vision thing"

argued that an expanding economy, spurred by supply-side economics, would spare jobs and new opportunities for the black underclass in the inner cities and the working poor in the rust belt of the industrial Midwest. It was a private-sector solution to what was traditionally viewed as a public-sector problem.

However, many economists now say that the 1990s proved that analysis to be faulty, with not only blue-collar workers but well-educated middle-class voters as well losing their jobs. In many cases, those are the same voters who support the free-trade (liberal access to stran-

tion) movement that has turned into a political minefield for Bush and the party. The Republican platform at the Houston convention calls for a constitutional amendment banning import quotas. But pro-choice delegates, led by actress Ann Stone, have threatened a letter convention-door fight against the party platform. Said disillusioned Republican Robert of Stone: "She is the future of the party if it chooses to open up." But she added "I think the party will ultimately collapse."

Nobody expects more chaos and confounded by the sea change in American politics than Bush himself. Until last August, he was riding the crest of enormous popularity following the Persian Gulf War—even claiming that he had vanquished the spectre of American impotence in Vietnam. Now, he finds himself attacked from all corners for not being, in his own words, "the vision thing" to steer America socially and economically. With less than three months until the Nov. 3 election, time is clearly running out for the incumbent. Said presidential scholar Mark Russell: "The odds are clearly against his unless there is some fundamental change in the economy or an 'Oleander surprise' (some military action) followed by a rally-around-the-flag phenomenon."

CLINTON CHOOSES HIS BATTLEGROUND



Campaign workers call it the Quick Response Room. Housed in a stately downtown mansion in Little Rock, Ark., the nerve center of Democratic presidential candidate William Clinton's so-called war cabinet beams with the noise of TVs, phones, wire services and fax machines. From there, the Clinton forces launch their daily responses to a slick Republican attack campaign aimed at discrediting the Arkansas governor as an inexperienced, too-and-speed liberal who cannot be trusted to run the country. They war machine never let the Republicans attack without responding at the same news cycle. Said one campaign aide who spoke on condition of anonymity: "We are not going to let President George Bush or his political operatives use scare tactics to paint Clinton as an irresponsible alien from outer space." He added, "We developed the response to counterattack."

Last week, the battleground was health care. Bush derided a Clinton proposal for expanded health care as a bungling, bureaucratic nightmare with Communist undertones. "It has," Bush said, "the efficiency of the

House post office with the compassion of the toilet."

The Clinton team swiftly responded by accusing Bush of neglecting soaring health-care costs, which they claim have risen 33 per cent since the President took office in January, 1989. Costs, said Clinton, have risen "like a potato's fever chart." Both candidates charged aside the evening news.

And even as Republicans prepared to launch a fresh volley of attacks during their party convention in Houston this week, the Democrats promised to return the fire. A Clinton aide said that the lesson from the failed 1988 campaign of former Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis was twofold: "Never let up, respond immediately and seize the initiative."

In fact, some Republicans leveled Clinton's surgical tactics even as they delivered potentially damaging blows to Bush's fading campaign. "It's working and it's impressive," admitted Republican political analyst Lyn Natriker. He added: "The Bush administration didn't expect and is not prepared for it. They haven't been prepared to go out there and wage a war."

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FALLING ON HARD TIMES

THE B.C. FOREST INDUSTRY FACES NEW PRESSURE TO PRODUCE MORE JOBS AND PROFITS WITH FEWER TREES

The Vancouver head offices of some of Canada's largest forest companies are shuffling up their images. They have recently become showcases for elegant furnishings—upstairs, pine and fir trees that usually end up as two-by-fours or sawlogs. At Canfor Corp., the boardrooms are modelled in rich brown Douglas fir. At the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia,

the industry's influential lobby group, the door frames are made from hemlock. And the council's massive boardroom tables has been crafted from hemlock Douglas fir. "They said it couldn't be done," said council president Michael Agony, standing his hand over the backless grain of the table. "But here it is."

If the defunct forelands are any indication, British Columbia's largest industry is gradually gaining a new respect for the wood that it has been cutting down and selling up for the past century. But so critics, and there are many in British Columbia, say that the industry's enlightenment is a little late and too late. The province's old-growth forest stands, in which the industry wielded for its timber supply for at least another 20 or 30 years until the so-called second-growth forests are

mature enough to harvest, are dwindling. At the same time, the provincial government, which controls most B.C. forest lands, is under pressure to cut wide swaths of the old-growth stands for a variety of environmental, recreational and native land-clear purposes.

The timber supply crisis is hitting as the province's forest industry suffers through record losses of \$469 million on sales of \$1.6 billion in 1991 (compared with a record profit in 1987 of \$1.4 billion on sales of \$1.2 billion). The companies also face rapidly increasing costs (\$1.5 billion in 1990 alone) in the next decade to upgrade old, inefficient mills and to meet tough new pollution-control standards. "There are people in this industry right now who are despairing of the future," declared Philip Blodgett, MacMillan-Bloedell's chairman several months ago. "It is time for the industry to get it all together and get into the 20th century."

The companies' economic problems cannot be dismissed as merely those of a doomed ancient industry and its 90,370 employees. The Canadian forest industry, of which British Co-

lumbia accounts for about one-third of the employees and sales and one-half of the profits a year, is the country's largest net exporter, bringing in more than \$15 billion in foreign exchange each year. As well, the West Coast forest industry was cited by Michael Porter, Harvard University's competitiveness guru, as the widely quoted study on the Canadian economy last year, as one of the country's most competitive sectors. Unfortunately, as Porter noted, the B.C. industry's competitive advantage comes solely from its virgin-forest resource base. It is also one of the few major industries that is largely owned and controlled by Canadians, rather than foreigners.

The industry also provides particularly rewarding jobs. The average B.C. forestry employee earned \$41,700 in wages and \$12,600 in benefits in 1991, far in excess of the average provincial wage of \$26,200. "We could never replace these jobs, it would be impossible," said Deborah Simmonds. An export sales co-ordinator, she has been working with her husband Kenneth, a grader, at MacMillan-Bloedell's main mill and sawmill profitable sawmill, at the small seaside town of Chemainus on southern Vancouver Island, for seven years. After the company shut down the old Chemainus mill in 1982 during the last recession, the non-union town reported to pending patch on the walls of its downtown buildings as desperate to attract tourists. When the new mill opened three years later, 2,000 people applied for 100 jobs.



R.C. log boom: companies' problems cannot be dismissed as those of a doomed ancient industry

Nor surprisingly, forest workers disagree with environmental activists who are pushing for ever-increasing amounts of the old forests to be preserved. "Without the industry, our province would be a welfare state," said Simmonds. "Forests do grow back, they are a renewable resource."

But to environmentalists, the night-bush-diameter, 2,000-year-old logs that the Chemainus mill occasionally processes represent the destruction of a piece of the province's natural heritage, trees that have been growing in British Columbia's uncut forest land for centuries. They say that the cutting is taking place to meet the demands of the market, rather than the ability of the land to sustain growth. Said Joseph Poy, a spokesman for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee in Vancouver: "We want a forest industry to be more dynamic, and that won't happen if the cutting keeps going at today's rate."

Environmental groups have created a number of recent victories against the forest industry. The federal government created a national park on South Moravia Island in the Queen Charlotte Sound. Logging has been halted on Meares Island while the government negotiates with natives. At the same time, a decision in 1990 on creating a wilderness reserve at the Stein Valley in southwestern British Columbia is expected to be favorable, and half of the Carmanah Valley on western Vancouver Island has been designated a provincial park.

In the courts, serious new challenges are emerging from such arguments as the Sierra Legal Defense Fund. Gregory McLeod, the fund's executive director, says that one of its

legal actions last year convinced the federal government to ban commercial logging in Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta. Following the release this summer of a government study highly critical of the forest companies' attempts to protect fish habitats when they log near streams, the fund warned that it would seek enforcement of the laws, which carry penalties of fines of as much as \$5 million and jail sentences for company officials.

TOUGH TACTICS, HARD OPINIONS

From his ivory tower perched on the broadest branch of one of its big trees, there is little about Jim (the only name he would disclose) that suggests he is a group blamed for environmental ills. But he is a spokesman for the Vancouver branch of Earth First!, a movement that recently arrived from the United States.

Earth First! calls for direct action—locking environmental destruction—such as if laws are broken. "No compromise in the defence of Mother Earth," reads the motto on a newsletter it distributes out of Montana. It advocates what it calls monkeywrenching—sabotage designed to target companies. Tactics against forest firms include poisoning and using the gas tanks of equipment; and hammering metal spikes into trees, making it dangerous for companies to

each smaller than their U.S. counterparts for the past decade, adding value means finding ways to turn wood into more profits.

At times, the two goals seem destined to clash. The most state-of-the-art Chemainus operation, for years a MacMillan-Bloedell's most profitable mill, and the only one that has continued to operate at full capacity throughout this recession. It uses such sophisticated equipment as a X-ray machine that can locate

fell trees. Since Earth First! arrived, logging equipment has been damaged and trees spiked in the Watershed Valley on Vancouver Island. "We believe that it is no different than if we were in Nazi Germany and had an opportunity to dismantle the gas chambers," said Jim. "We don't see it as an issue of my defence or as a civil issue, it's not for me (society) or as an old forest."

Jim proclaimed Aug. 3 a day of action and published the names and addresses of 80 senior forest company officers. That day passed quietly, but Jim says that it was a success because the companies spent money buying security guards and patrolling the forests. Such nonviolent groups as the Western Canada Wilderness Committee are also concerned about Earth First! tactics. Committee director Joseph Poy says that as the one of the defuncted Earth First! actions days, loggers threatened with violence. "Conquering Ford" "That's what happens when some morose politicians a piece of paper and starts making threats."

hidden costs and choose designs a testing pattern for each job that will make the best use of the wood. In addition, mill managers DeLong have implemented highly productive management and work practices in an industry that often suffers from bitter labor relations. The Chemunau mill is clearly the end of the future that provides for lower pulp per cubic foot of wood processed than the antiquated mill it replaced.

Small companies that specialize in a few particular product areas boast that they will produce the most new jobs in the future. But the problems facing the sector were equally daunting. In Prince George, the financial strains of the recession are etched on the faces of the father-and-son management team of Peter and John Bly. Their company, Woodland Warden Ltd., had been growing steadily, producing windows and look-alike pine furniture for such companies as Swedish furniture retailers like Bly.

Since 1990, the Blys have been caught in the complicated struggle war—involving the price the provincial government charges forest companies for the trees they harvest on Crown land—between Canadian and American lumber producers. "The logging system is too inflexible as it stands right now," said an exasperated young John Bly. "The whole system is designed around making two-by-fours or pulp chips. There is no room for our type of industry." But the Blys employ about 100 workers per cubic foot of wood processed for every acre that a local sawmill requires.

However, many forest companies are beginning to develop some reasonably attractive

products. Vancouver-based MacMillan Bloedel, the country's largest forest company, is working on a number of new products from strawed cedar siding to laminated wood beams as strong as traditional steel, and recyclable corrugated containers that can take the place of steel drums. MacMillan Bloedel is even considering the possibility of making roof tiles out of the sludge left over from its pulp mills.

But perhaps the single most surprising product is a pressed wood-fibre inner door panel for auto manufacturers by Caesar and used in some Honda Accords manufactured in the United States. Said Caesar chairman Peter Bentley,

"The big forest companies are doing all sorts of new things right now. But it is going to take a while before they will take the right products that we can make money with."

Meanwhile, Bentley and other insiders say that the entire Canadian industry is due for a shakeout. Many pulp-and-paper mills in eastern Canada are old and inefficient and face a daunting new challenge from legislated requirements for recycled newspaper in their markets in the eastern United States. And B.C. mills, although generally healthier because of better resources and fewer inefficient operations, also need rationalization. B.C. executives say that by the end of the 21st century, there will be fewer forestry companies in Canada and the survivors will be bigger and better able to compete in the increasingly sophisticated, not demanding global market.

But it will take much longer than that before the five shapewear Canadian wood furniture on display in the offices of British Columbia's underemployed forest companies is even available for sale. Despite the effort, B.C.'s wood is just too soft and bulky to be commercially suitable for such glamorous products.



BRENDA DALGLISH is Vancouver.

was really shocked," said Beck. "The forest companies have been telling us for 10 years that they are doing a better job of logging and then this comes out." He has no patience with companies that knowingly damage the environment. "It seems like the Alouette River takes out and some people will do anything," he said. "The only solution is to change the way we do logging and then this comes out."

declared Beck, is much stronger enforcement of both the forest and fishing industries. "We have to have better policing," he said. "Nobody is going to change unless they know the environment is there." Beck has a special interest in making sure that the industry stays healthy. He thinks his 18-year-old grandson might one day decide that he wants to be a fisherman. Just in case, Beck, 64, says that he is going to hang on to his boat and license for a few more years. "But the day my things are going right now," said Beck, "I can't think of a single very good idea for me to talk him into."

B.D.

Salmon: the 'cannery' of the province's environment

for or five years before attempting to start their own business. The B.C. Forest salmon stocks are in far better supply than the depleted East Coast stocks. Because the salmon are so dependent on B.C. waters, it is common for fishermen like Birch to become instant environmentalists. Birch has worked on environmental issues for his union, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers, and for the government.

The B.C. government released a report in late July on a random survey of 58 fish-bearing streams on Vancouver Island. The study revealed that 34 of them had suffered adversely to some degree as a result of logging practices that do not meet government standards. "I

'ALMIGHTY BUCK TAKES OVER'

In British Columbia fishing language, Edgar Birch is a "fisherman," a superior term for those who know where to find fish, how to get them into his boat and then how to get the boat back safely to harbor. In 1948, when he first started working on the West Coast, fishing was a full-time job for 16 months a year, but gradually the time of their great gear, the fish stock aboard and the time Birch spent on the ocean declined. The laborer got better wages spending his free time working on environmental issues. "When I started fishing, nobody thought about the fact that fish couldn't run if you logged off the river, it's a creek and the dirt washed down into the spawning beds," said Birch. "But we know now that when the salmon do not come back, we have an environmental problem somewhere. The salmon is to be B.C. environment: what the canyon was to coal miners."

The salmon's life cycle makes it especially vulnerable to outside interference. Blasted in rivers, the small fry eventually swim down to the ocean, where they live for

JOLTS OF ASIAN ENERGY

IMMIGRANTS BRING MONEY, JOBS AND SPIRIT

S teven Kwok says that he is living every architect's most glorious dream—and most harrowing nightmare. Kwok is deputy chairman of Concord Pacific Development Ltd., the \$2.5 billion real estate project on the site of Vancouver's former Expo lands owned by Hong Kong's wealthiest and most influential businessman, Li Ka-shing. On 284 acres of unique waterfront land on the edge of downtown Vancouver, he aims equal to build a south of the city's exciting downtown, or about 50 city blocks. Kwok is planning to build 40 high-rise towers and dozens of low-rise buildings. For an architect, the chance to convert the design of such an important project is rare. But five years into the development, Kwok, 64, has held 200 public meetings, listened to hours of advice and sometimes angry outbursts of his plans—and has yet to complete a single building. Still the architect says, "We were expecting it to be a complex, sensitive project, but I never expected it to take quite this long."



Kwok is living every architect's most glorious dream—and most harrowing nightmare.

That aside, the shapewear Concord Pacific development has become the most visible symbol of how the province is changing as it opens its arms to Asia. British Columbians see themselves pitched on the Pacific edge of North America looking toward Asia and the 21st century, rather than backward to Europe and the past. In the past five years, that vision has begun to turn into reality. Since 1981, more than 130,000 Asians have immigrated to the province—about one-third of them from Hong Kong. They have brought money, jobs and an entrepreneurial spirit that has led to a job of energy into Vancouver and helped British Columbia weather the recession better than other regions of the country.

Lisa Lai Concord Pacific, some of the most visible investments of the new immigrants have in real estate. Many Vancouver homeowners credit Asian immigrants with the recent increase in the value of their houses. Said one happy Vancouver lawyer of his house investment: "It has a big lot, on a flat street that does not have many trees. The Chinese see that it is perfect for a master house." Those master houses—massive, lavishly, new or renovated houses that often sit on out of scale and style with their neighborhoods, along with soaring real estate prices, have caused

friction between residents and newcomers. But the angry clashes between neighbors in Vancouver's most exclusive residential areas—often over the destruction of trees—which made headlines two decades ago, have largely ended.

But research by the Laurier Institute, a Vancouver think-tank that specializes in multicultural issues, indicates that it is B.C. job boomers entering the housing market and a net inflow of Canadian from other provinces—not Asian immigrants—that are mainly responsible for Vancouver's housing real estate market. Rising migration figures support that conclusion. The net interprovincial migration into British Columbia from 1985 to 1990 was 134,139 people, while net immigration from the rest of the world totaled 86,487 during that period.

Despite real estate's high profits, some of the other, less-visible investment is even more beneficial to the province's economy. Vitel Electronics Canada Ltd. is creating part of the local, high-quality jobs that British Columbia is seeking. Vitel is a research and development subsidiary of Vitec Technology Group Ltd. of Hong Kong, a fast-growing firm that manufactures cellular telephones, computers, satellite receivers and electronic games and learning systems for children. Edmond Ho, Vitel's 45-year-old chairman and engineering manager, says that a few years ago, the company decided to move much of its production operations to China. Said the "Labor costs were increasing tremendously in Hong Kong."

In 1990, Vitel opened a manufacturing plant, along with a dormitory and cafeteria to

accommodate 5,000 young female production workers in the city of Daangnam, three hours north of Hong Kong. He says that the women earn about one-tenth the wage of their Hong Kong counterparts and that the turnover rate is low. At the same time, they decided to move most of their research and development work to North America. The United States and Canada have a good supply of high-quality engineers and, he says, the company wanted to be closer to the sophisticated consumer market where it sells its products. Sent Ho "if you want to be a world leader, you cannot afford to be a copycat for long."

Ho, who had taught engineering at a Hong

Kong university and worked as a consultant for Velvo Technology, had already decided to immigrate to Canada with his wife and two children, to join his father and brother in Toronto. Referring to the British-Columbian colony's conversion to China's control in 1997, he said, "A lot of people in Hong Kong are not sure what's going to happen. If you have kids, you don't want to take a risk." When company officials learned of his plans, they offered him the opportunity to open a North American subsidiary.

As for the contrast between the aggressive capitalism of Hong Kong and Vancouver's notoriously casual style, Ho recalled that the difference initially startled him. "In Hong Kong, everything is on the fast track, everybody moves real fast," he said. "But here, the whole industry is moving very, very slow, everything is very relaxed. It is difficult to get things moving." But he added that he encouraged his employees to respond more quickly and that they complied. "It is not the country that matters, it is the manager," he said with a laugh.

Although VTC's investment is clearly successful, many other Hong Kong investors ex-

pectant. And now that many immigrants have met the three-year-residency requirement to apply for citizenship, they are returning to look for better business opportunities in Asia. "People in Hong Kong constantly refer to it as 'putting in their time in Canada,' like being in jail," said Ring, who was born and raised in British Columbia. "They say Canada is boring, but I tell them they are just saying that because it is tolerable to say so."

When Persack, the influential chairman of the B.C. Trade Development Corp., agrees with some of the criticism, Sent Persack, who reports himself as Premier Michael Harcourt. "There have been some failures, perhaps, in



Vancouver's False Creek: "Lifestyle is nice, but business is first and foremost in the minds of investors."

posed-dissatisfaction with their initial experiences in British Columbia. Sent Andrew Ring, a prominent Vancouver real estate agent who recently returned from a month-long visit to clients in Hong Kong. "Lifestyle is nice, but business is first and foremost in the minds of investors in Hong Kong. And some of them have had not really successful investments over here." And the opportunities for a faster payback on their investments are greater in Asia. In the worst cases, Ring says, Hong Kong investors have lost their money on Canadian projects that had soured. In May, 331 immigrant investors launched a \$34-million lawsuit alleging that money they had invested in Western Canadian Shopping Centers Inc. had been sent contrary to their understanding to a gold mine in northern Saskatchewan.

For a variety of reasons, Hong Kong immigration and investment flows to North America in general, and British Columbia in particular, are down. For one thing, Ring says, there has been a recent rush into China by Hong Kong companies and individual investors because of diminished taxes there. China's Communist

some cases, the result of overinvesting." But he said that British Columbia offers stability and security. "There is a reason why the returns are higher elsewhere," he said. "It is because the rules are greater."

Canadian businesses may also have to improve the services they offer to Asian investors. Ring described a case in which one extremely wealthy Hong Kong businessman went into a Canadian bank branch in Vancouver and asked a clerk at the counter about arranging a business loan. Without inquiring about the nature of the loan, the clerk already loaded the businessman's standard loan form. The businessman, assuming that was standard business practice in Canada, filled it out. When he returned it to the clerk, he was told he would have to do it again because he had words printed the first time. Sent Ring. "That is no way to treat an investor if you want them to come back a second time. And, without doubt, British Columbia wants to keep them coming back."

BRENDA DALGLISH in Vancouver

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General Motors plant in Chihuahua, Mex.: southward migration

most will likely close more plant closures, but they argue that protectionism is no longer an option for Canada. Michael Walker, executive director of the Vancouver-based Fraser Institute, a free-market, neo-classical think-tank, and the coach of longleaf football teams plays operating as greater, but less visible, than the deflation caused by shutting them down. "The losses are enormous, who pay five cents more for a tube of toothpaste or \$1 more for a shovel at the hardware store," said Walker. He added that industrial adjustment is destructive in the long run because it shuts Canada out of export markets. "It is a disaster," said Walker. "What we are witnessing here is a disaster quickly becoming a competitive disaster."

Many economists say that through much of its history, Canada has escaped the pressures of international competition because of its entrenched protectionist policies and its reliance on the export of natural resources. But Gorman: "Canada has had the luxury of rich resources and easy export trade. We've never

really had to hustle internationally before."

But if Canada is to hold its own in a North American trade bloc and flourish in the global arena, these experts say that an ongoing process of rational self-censorship will have to take place. Individuals and entire Canadian regions have traditionally relied heavily

upon government to provide financial assistance and social safety nets. And despite the pro-free-market rhetoric from business leaders, most economists maintain that Canadian companies are also overly dependent upon government handouts. "We can't have it all," said Paul Bowness, a professor of international trade at the University of Western Ontario in London. "Canada just cannot have more jobs, lower taxes and more social programs. We must collectively make some tough decisions about what we want to pay for and how to go about it."

Advocates of free trade concede, however, that the benefits may not be evenly distributed. Indeed, they acknowledge that there is a risk that the gap between upper-income professionals and blue-collar workers will widen, at least in the short term. According to Gorman, the gap between "haves" and "have-nots" widened during the 1980s and the free trade debate is now one of the political flashpoints between the two groups in what is also a poor group.

So far, the Mulroney government has re-

sisted the mounting pressure to create specific adjustment programs for those who lose their jobs because of free trade. In 1988, Mulroney created an Advisory Council on Adjustment, chaired by then vice prime minister Jean de Grandpré, to make recommendations about labor problems arising from the FTA. The following year, the council rejected the idea of introducing specific programs to help workers displaced by free-trade-related plant closures. The council noted that in most cases, it was impossible to distinguish between jobs lost because of free trade and those lost as a result of greater foreign competition, poor management or the declining appeal of the company's products in the marketplace. Arguing against special programs, de Grandpré said: "If we follow that route, we're going to have two classes of unemployed citizens in this country."

Last week, a gray-haired Wilson, clearly astounded from the 10-day marathon of trade talks in Washington, told his staff to the party line. Kicking off a cross-country tour to promote NAFTA, he told a news conference in Toronto that Canada already "has three times the program on a per-capita basis than the United States." He also repeated the claim that he and Mulroney and to guarantee the 1988 Canada-U.S. free trade pact, that increased international trade will inevitably create more jobs. He added that even now, "increased trade exports are leading us out of the recession."

But although the claims and the participants



in the tumultuous free trade debate that occurred last week are largely the same as those in 1988, the backdrop is dramatically different. The most vivid and haunting image for both sides is that of abandoned and deserted factories and workers whose prospects of finding new jobs appear to be bleak. To Wilson and C.I.B.'s Gerry Utman, the plant closings and the southward migration and the loss of some jobs are an

inevitable cost of preparing the Canadian economy to compete in a larger and more continental market. These task now is to ensure thousands of already displaced workers, and a growing number of insecure ones, that jobs can lead to prosperity.

DEBORAH MURKIN and JOHN BAILEY with RANCI WOOD in Ottawa

A BLUEPRINT FOR FREER MARKETS

Last week, free trade talks between Canada, the United States and Mexico culminated with the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The 32-page preliminary summary of the agreement just calls for immediate tariff reductions in some goods and for a 10-year reduction schedule over five or 20 years for others. Highlights:

AUTOMOBILES AND PARTS
Canadian employment: 131,000
Value of shipments: \$45.7 billion
Exports: \$35 billion
Proportion shipped to the United States: 97.5 percent
To Mexico: 0.2 percent

Economists in Canada's domestic automotive sector expressed approval of NAFTA. Two key issues were the transfer of Canadian production to lower-cost plants in Mexico and increased vehicle-content requirements. NAFTA preserves the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact, which controls most duty-free activity, and raises the North American part content of cars and light trucks to 62.2 percent from 50 percent. Domestic automakers say that they are confident that the pact will lead to increased trade with Mexico and, ultimately, more Canadian jobs. However, some North American-based manufacturers say that the accord will restrict further investment in Canada.

BANKING AND FINANCE
Canadian employment: 180,000
Total bank assets: \$112 billion
Big Six banks assets: \$354 billion
Percentage of Big Six bank assets linked to the United States: 15.8 percent
To Mexico: 0.2 percent

Canadian negotiators entered the talks with the hope of gaining better access to the U.S. money and securities markets. They did not. Instead, Canadian institutions gained full access, over time, to Mexico's formerly state-controlled financial services sector. NAFTA permits Canadian and U.S. financial companies to establish agencies in Mexico, subject to certain anti-share limits.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
No. of cases referred to binational dispute-resolution panels under the pact: 30
No. decided in favor of Canada: two
No. decided in favor of United States: four
No. of compromise rulings or settlements: 14
No. of disputes outstanding: 10

The dispute-settlement mechanism, which Canada fought to include in the pact, remains at best in NAFTA. The dispute-resolution system of the traditional agreement requires that Canada maintain an equal position in enforcing the rules of trade in North America. It was to Canada's advantage that the dispute-settlement mechanism remained free from protectionist forces in the United States.

OIL AND GAS
Canadian employment: 70,000
Value of shipments: \$18.0 billion
Exports: \$10.7 billion
Proportion shipped to the United States: 95 percent
To Mexico: none

Even after intense pressure from the United States for immediate access to Mexico's oil and gas, Canada refused to open its largely state-owned oil industry to foreign investment. However, the accord stipulates that restrictions on energy trade among the three countries be limited to specific circumstances. NAFTA also assures Canadian natural gas companies that their U.S. customers will have to consider their long-term contractual obligations.

LABOR
Average hourly wage in manufacturing:
Canada: \$38.93
United States: \$17.42
Mexico: \$2.12

NAFTA does not resolve the contentious debate over what effect the trade pact will have on Canadian jobs. Labor leaders say that Mexico's low wages, its labor law protections for workers and few environmental controls will encourage Canadian firms to relocate there, resulting in massive job losses at home. Government spokesmen and many economists say that Canada's advantages, including advanced technology, access to capital and a relatively skilled workforce, will offset the wage differential.

TEXTILES AND APPAREL
Canadian employment: 143,000
Value of shipments: \$12.0 billion
Exports: \$2.4 billion
Proportion shipped to the United States: 98 percent
To Mexico: negligible

There were clear winners and losers in Canada's garment-making sector. NAFTA's long-term rules of origin allow only clothing made from North American-made fabric and yarn to qualify for duty-free status. This angered Canadian apparel company officials, whose products are made predominantly from yarns and fabrics from Europe and Asia. Increased U.S. cotton growth not covered at prevailing duty rates will not offset the effect of the new rules of origin. On the other hand, the Canadian textile industry dramatically improved its access to the U.S. market by more than doubling its special-exemption quota.

ENVIRONMENT
Average annual per-capita greenhouse gas emissions in Canada: 18.8 tons
Average in the United States: 21 tons
Average in Mexico: 5.9 tons

The apparently unresolvable question among environmentalists is that NAFTA may lead to prevent or clean up pollution in Mexico. The agreement provides only that no North country should lower its health, safety or environmental standards to create so-called pollution havens to attract investment.

JULIE GAZIN in Toronto



Vancouver's preppie pragmatist mayor

BY PETER NEWMAN

So much of our national attention upon him has been wasted watching provincial premiers walking in and out of incongruous federal/provincial conferences, we sometimes forget that there's another level of administration that affects our daily lives much more directly. That's municipal government, and at least one mayor, Gordon Campbell of Vancouver, has a flash interest in our constitutional problems. "We don't need a Triple E Senate; we're already got one," he says. "It's irrelevant, it's elitist and it's expensive. This is no time to reinvent the Senate, but to abolish it. That would show the way to establishing Triple A government: Government that's Affordable, Accessible and Accountable."

That's a fairly typical offhand reply for Vancouver's daredevil, 40-year-old mayor who arguably became the most progressive and most quickly accountable civic administrator in the country. "People who oppose me," he accurately divines, "are frustrated that I don't fit into their little moulds." Campbell is the sort of pragmatic pragmatist who drives left and right motorists to distraction by being pleasant to both, but agreeing with neither. It would be accurate on council as Herby Rabin, a diplomat in Vancouver who sees ceremonies behind every Douglas fir. (He's the mayor's city hall.) In North America, with the score on one side of the Vancouver City Council? The answer: "Vancouver City Council doesn't use Communes on it."

Campbell's main problem is that Greater Vancouver is located in the most geographically constrained location of any downtown core in North America, with the score on one side of it: Vinegar Hill, the mountains on either side and the unsuitable farmlands of the Fraser Valley on the third. Computer-generated projections predict population growth of another 1.2 million by 2021, which would mean a total of three million people driving two million cars within the next 30 years. Arthur Erickson, the architect who created some of Vancouver's most notable structures, has a more startling

Gordon Campbell drives left and right-wingers to distraction by being pleasant to both, but agreeing with neither

forecast for the city's long-term future. "We know," he says, "that 30 million citizens, one-third of them from the Orient, is not a real prediction for Vancouver."

To plan for and contain such exponential growth, Campbell is formulating a new city plan, the first comprehensive blueprint since 1986. "What we're trying to do with downtown," he says, "is to make it more of a residential area, so people can live close to their work. That will help contain the city's quality of life. You'll see very significant additional construction activities in areas outside the city core and east of the 35 region that make up the Greater Vancouver area—especially those communities along the fringe of the Sky Train."

If a preservation of Vancouver's vibrant quality of life that drives most of Campbell's initiatives, the proclaimed bar city the Rock Capital of Canada at a Bol Stewart concert, helped save the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, passed enlightened MTS-in-the-workplace legislation, established the country's first child-care assistance, and has built farms working on arts initiatives, who city politicians and urban landscape ideas.

Unlike most mayors who thrive on rubber chairs—or pretend to—Campbell makes a lot

of "reetings from the city" speeches, does give home to his family. So unreflexive, he does enjoy experimenting with unusual ideas, such as his "Blasting up" theory. "Transfer payments come from Ottawa to the provinces, who reluctantly distribute part of them to municipalities," he points out. "That was basically decided in 1887, when less than three per cent of Canadian lived in cities. Today, the number is closer to 60 per cent, and the constitutional rules haven't changed [financial] resources should accompany responsibilities."

Campbell believes that tax funds should flow from municipalities to the provinces, and only then up to Ottawa. "At the very least," he says, "the funds should take into account the needs of local governments in exercising their powers, especially in immigration, trade and criminal law."

A third-generation Vancouverite (his grandfather got through the Depression making money for local farmers), Gordon was a scholarship student at Denison College in New Hampshire and after graduating, went to Nigeria with CUSO in 1970. Then, he returned to Vancouver, where he became executive assistant to mayor Art Phillips. Following that, he became a successful property developer for almost a decade. In 1986, when Mike Harcourt, who had been a three-term mayor of Vancouver, decided to move into the provincial field, Campbell ran and won the mayoralty.

To relax, Campbell golf, tennis, "muscle abuse," and plays the guitar. He runs the trails for a while and if he didn't run any trails, he at least finished the course. He lives with his wife Nancy, a French teacher, and two sons in a modest 2,000-sq-ft house, two-story home and across every penny of his \$72,000 salary. "We don't with any kind of problems imaginable," he says. "The deal with a citizen who wants to sell a 2,000-sq-ft collection of books, and, consider in perfect isolation, I even see deal with a taxpayer who offered me \$100,000 and came to want me about a herd of jellyfish raising local waters, which could only be handled with a deal of vinegar and still problem—now stuff with I call grassroots."

Campbell has already turned down a federal Liberal offer to succeed John Turner as Canada's Quebec riding, and the betting is that he'll never in the provincial field. In a number of which party? "What are the options? The independent candidate, 'in discipline, not dogmatically.'"

"The mayor's performance," Trevor Laidman, the Vancouver Star columnist has noted, "is so sound that it's hardly possible—high praise in the days of the Tories."

To rise, when Campbell attended a showing of *Phantom of the Opera* recently, a woman approached him at intermission, suspiciously looked him over and asked: "Don't I know you from somewhere? Aren't you an informant?" Campbell allowed that he occasionally was an "in" and confessed, "I'm the mayor."

The women looked much relieved. "Ah, so you're Mike Harcourt," she murmured and walked away.



PEOPLE THE VALUE OF BEAUTY

Linda Sweden described writing as "a way of trying to make something new for myself." Now, with her first short-story collection, *Marble Life*, brimming with one of the biggest literary hits of the summer, that desire for novelty has paid off. When it comes to home, however, the B.C. author didn't prefer her literary three years ago, she returned to Vancouver from Manhattan, where she lived since 1978. Sweden said that she decided she wanted to live "somewhere beautiful and green, where values are still visible." She added: "I voted with my feet."



A POLICEMAN'S TALE

Vancouver-based writer Carsten Stroud has a theory. "Policemen," he says, "are the last of the true, old-fashioned storytellers, because if they were it, they get into trouble." In fact, the author of the 1986 nonfiction bestseller *Clay Paved*, an account of the dirty life of New York City cops, says policemen's tale again in his crime novel *Liquidator*. For the fact-based book about murder in Montreal, Stroud travelled to that state—and, he says, became fascinated by its beauty. "It sounds stupid," Stroud, 44, admitted, "but I felt that I was emotionally and spiritually affected by the landscape." Despite his fondness for Montreal, the Toronto-born former policeman says that he generally prefers the streets of the big city to more picturesque areas. Stroud said that he left Toronto "unwilling" four years ago, "because I feel Toronto really sucks." Vancouver, clearly, is a little less related to his taste. "In Vancouver there's a girl," Stroud joked. "It would have a single—or at least."

Stroud tapping into the 'real' tradition



Unger: the challenge of 'exploration'

JOURNEY INTO DARKNESS

In the new movie *Whisper in the Dark*, Deborah Unger plays an enigmatic woman disturbed by subconscious sexual fantasies—a role that she says presented special challenges. Recalled the Vancouver-area screen "I kept thinking, 'Oh my God, Deborah Unger isn't in this part. She can't say these words.'" But Unger, 38, added that eventually, "the emotional exploration became very fascinating. If I thought this role was motivated by some sexuality male version of how women fantasize and behave, I wouldn't have been able to do it."

Building a nest in Utopia

After touring with his play *Bill* by Blaise Goss to Van for four years, New South Wales' John Goss found paradise—in the other coast. Moving to Vancouver with his girlfriend in 1982, the composer, theorist and father of two says that he "met with a vengeance." Added Goss, 43, whose video artists work on CBC's *The Journal* until last year: "There is a tradition to British Columbia of trying to find Utopia. I can't afford it anymore, but I'm here."



Stroud tapping into the 'real' tradition

ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE

SENIORS FLOCK TO THE TEMPERATE COAST

A brilliantly sunny morning in late July greeted Lutes' Day at the Quilicum Beach Memorial Golf Club. As the first groups finished their rounds, they gathered in the clubhouse to add up their scores. Nearly all of the women were in their 60s, and most had moved to the Vancouver Island community from somewhere else in Canada. One of the golfers, Dick Perry, 64, said that she first visited Quilicum

about a month ago in Vancouver and Victoria. Now, personal officials say that migrating senior citizens have made smaller communities on the west coast of Vancouver Island, including Nanaimo, Quilicum Beach, Parksville and Comox, into some of the province's most popular retirement areas. Other pensioners, including many Albertans, have communities in the mainland's southwestern Okanagan Valley. The flood of older Canadians in such centres

presses on municipal budgets, the influx of cash from the new residents has given some communities economic stability. Said Mayor Jack Collins of Quilicum Beach: "Over the past few years, our economic fluctuations have been slight, thanks to retirees."

The experience of Quilicum Beach illustrates how the influx of retirement-aged residents has affected small B.C. communities. Between 1986 and 1990, its population grew by more than 29 per cent to 4,428. A subsequent boundary extension limited that to 5,175. About 27 per cent of the residents are 65 or older, up from only 15 per cent in that age group in 1981, and will show the national figure of 12 per cent. With no sandy beach, the town has traditionally been a popular summer tourist attraction. In recent years, partly because of its growing population of retired people, Quilicum Beach has encouraged the development of a low-key club, a nursing rink, a 75-bed extended-care hospital and a multipurpose civic centre. Private developers have been busy. In 1991, residential building permits were increased to \$36.5 million from \$13.5 million in 1990. Commercial and industrial permits totalled another \$8.3 million, up from \$550,000 the year before.

As many retirement communities, Quilicum Beach's municipally owned golf course is a busy social centre. Sitting with Perry at a table overlooking the golf course and the strand beyond, Wilma Blackley, 65, and Gladys Martin, 70, discussed the area's mild climate as being one of the main attractions for senior citizens. "There may be two weeks when we can't play golf," said Martin, who moved to Quilicum Beach from the central B.C. mining town of Hazelton. "But that's about it."

Parksville and Comox had moved in as soon-new towns on Lons Bay, 30 minutes northwest of Vancouver, but were lured to the island by its weather and the abundance of recreational opportunities. Conrad Nelson, a semi-retired insurance executive, and Patricia, a leprosy patient, bought a two-bedroom condo on the island along the Morningstar Golf Course, so his cat could live in Quilicum Beach, and several eight months ago. Surveying her flourishing garden, she looks onto the golf course. Patricia Nelson said: "I don't think we could do any better than this." Clearly, that judgment is shared by the thousands of retirement-aged Canadians who have responded to the attractions of British Columbia.

JAMES DRACON in Quilicum Beach



Low bowlers in Quilicum Beach: no snow and year-round recreation

Beach 13 years ago, while vacationing from Ottawa with her husband Howard and their two children. Perry said that she was strongly attracted by the town, which overlooks the Strait of Georgia/Vancouver strait. "We thought a lot and just sat on it," she says. In 1980, Howard Perry retired from his job with the federal government. The couple had already decided that they did not want to stay in Ottawa ("My husband got tired of shoveling snow.") The Perrys considered wintering in Florida, but in the end chose Quilicum Beach, attracted by the mild climate and relaxed lifestyle that has made the province the most popular retirement region in the country.

According to federal census figures, during the 10-month period to June, 1991, almost 4,805 new arrivals from elsewhere in Canada were over 65. The temperate West Coast climate has traditionally attracted older Cana-

dians to such cities as Vancouver and Victoria. Now, personal officials say that migrating senior citizens have made smaller communities on the west coast of Vancouver Island, including Nanaimo, Quilicum Beach, Parksville and Comox, into some of the province's most popular retirement areas. Other pensioners, including many Albertans, have communities in the mainland's southwestern Okanagan Valley. The flood of older Canadians in such centres

OLDER ON THE COAST

British Columbia led the country in age. The 1991 census recorded seniors (65 and over) living in the post dividing older and younger people into equal halves at 54.1 per cent, compared to 50.4 years for all Canadians and to 36.5 years, the youngest, for Newfoundland. Estimates show that 131 of every 1,000 British Columbians were 65 or older on census day June 1, 1991, compared with 118 out of every 1,000 Canadian generally.



Kelowna from across Okanagan Lake: vineyards, beaches and 12,000 hours of sun

OKANAGAN RUSH

KELOWNA FACES UP TO RAPID GROWTH

Curious tourists watch a pair of butterflies called Scarit Marmosa mate in a tall green bamboo shoot in a tropical rain forest enclosed in a glass conservatory. A flight of scintillating exotic species creates layers of bright pools and ripples over a bank of sliced oranges and bananas. The spectators are among a stream of visitors off the Okanagan Valley's traffic-clogged Highway 97 who pass 35 stops to enter Buttery's World, one of the newest tourist attractions in booming Kelowna, the hot spot of north-central British Columbia. Buttery's World's owners, co-founders Ray Jensen and his wife, Judy, a former schoolteacher, are part of an entrepreneurial wave that is changing the once-quiet retirement enclave beside 68-mile-long Okanagan Lake into a growth centre. "I tell people that if they can't just get out of coming here, there are no jobs," said Gerry Froedrick, manager of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce. "But if they are coming to develop an idea, there is lots of work. You have to make your own."

Outside of Buttery's World's Lower Mainland area around Vancouver, Kelowna is among the fast-growing province's most quickly expanding communities. Its population soared by 24 per cent in five years to 75,850 in the 1991 national census. Apart from the

increased number of residents, and an expanding tourism of summer tourists, the petasque centre of the Okanagan's orchard country is packed with structural signs of new growth and construction that rival newcomers to the area's explosive expansion.

A new connector highway shortens the drive between Vancouver and Kelowna, its sandy beaches, a lake busy with boats, more than 25 sunny golf courses, and its proudest attraction—2,000 hours of summer sun. Kelowna is agitating with housing construction, much of it for pensioners. An influx of young families has prompted authorities to open a new elementary school and reopen a junior high school. Okanagan University College, offering diploma-level courses since last year, has launched a \$166-million expansion. Scheduled to open in October is the 400-room, 16.2-million Grand Okanagan Resort, with leisure convention room for 1,200 people. "It goes up as the convention centre," and the chamber's Froedrick, 50, a former oil marketing manager who moved to Kelowna from Denver: "We already have the Shoppers for 1992."

More seriously, the B.C. Cancer Agency plans to open a \$33-million clinic with four radiation therapy units in 1996. "The area's population is both growing and aging," ex-

plained Brian Caruth, the agency's planning and development director. "The problems of cancer increase with an older population." That is only one sign of the influence on Kelowna of retired people, many of whom live in rented, sub-subsidized communities. Government statistics show that 40 cents out of every dollar of home purchase costs in Kelowna is pension money.

That pensioner leads a conflict of interests between retired people and younger families. "This is a community at war with itself," says Walter Shaver, research director of Northern Alberta Technology, a local on-line electronics manufacturer with 26 employees. "The city is undecided whether it wants to be a second priced community or a retirement centre. The many self-contained cities here are out of the loop. They don't work. They go elsewhere for much of the year. The jobs here for the young are generally limited to turning down beds and filling glasses with water."

Contrary centres as well as the influx of shelter costs with the influx of pensioners and others from as far away as Eastern Canada, along with tourists and weekenders attracted from Alberta and the B.C. coast by the Okanagan's local climate. Shaver's one, who said that his four-member family's home, purchased at 1986 for \$67,500, now is valued at \$100,000. "Home," he says, "is moving out at a rate for the people who actually work here."

The property boom is also swelling the Okanagan's first suburbs and vineyards. The Jensen brothers Buttery's World's 5,200-square-foot conservatory, as tropical places and 160 imported species of butterflies largely from the proceeds of subdividing their 18.5-acre Okanagan vineyard for real estate development—"an aggressive business," Shaver recalls. But it "broke down to children," and providing opportunities for her three children. That decision, and others like it, coincide with improvements in the quality and reputation of local wines, which attract more visitors to winery tours, testing seasons and Okanagan wine journals.

The increasing numbers of visitors and residents generate such big-city problems as traffic jams, a need for food banks and hotels, and rowdies whose excess behavior has harmed the credibility of Kelowna's image. The city is a high priority for the province, and one that a growing number of Kelownans are determined will be only a temporary tax on the enjoyment of the good life in the Okanagan.

JOHN BOWEN in Kelowna

GREEN CATHEDRALS

B.C. TOURISM ENJOYS A BACKCOUNTRY BOOM

Erasing rent easily on the guests at the Cariboo Rose ranch. Punched their day's trail ride, they have shovelled away the dust, soothed their aches in the hot tub. And now, mending dinner, they sip cold drinks on the sprawling porch of the rustic lodge and watch the sun slip behind nearby Mount Kerr. Sunset brings a noticeable, and welcome, drop in temperature to the arid plateau that forms the heart of interior British Columbia's cattle country. Most of the horses, unsaddled and braided, graze in a fir pasture as a copse emerges from a poplar grove beyond the training corral only to retreat at the sight of the ranch dogs. "Being at all in from the porch, that Poncar, 54, a business specialist at the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency in Seattle, explains why she is visiting for a week. "My daily experience here is a 360-degree turn from my life at home," she says. "There are no cars, no telephones, no newspapers. It's as completely restful and so beautiful."



Rafters on the Tsetseashibi: "an emotional experience"

most of B.C. industries. Most companies offering such services were small, family run, and disconnected by the mountains and loosely populated towns in which they operated. In the past, whenever backcountry tour operators and insurance companies acquired off its victims over their shares of the wilderness, the provincial governments at the day generally mist with the traditional powers of the B.C. economy—forestry, mining, hydroelectric development and commercial fishing. The notion that natural resources were liabilities was belittled by the jobs and other economic returns that forestry and mining companies promised to bring to remote regions of the province. But the boom in adventure travel has heightened competition for increasingly scarce wilderness

terrain. Karl Krummer, co-owner of the Cariboo Rose, says that, despite frequent meetings between tourism operators and resource company officials, the problem does not go away. "The conflict between logging and recreational tourism is real," Krummer says. "The two just don't go together."

But backcountry tourism is beginning to have an impact on land-use policy. Of the estimated \$5.5 billion spent by tourists in the province in 1990, according to tourism ministry figures, experts calculate that more than one-third was generated by adventure travel. Tourism minister Barbara Munn, whose department is responsible for the provincial government's most powerful planning committee, acknowledges that "tourism has a way to go before it is completely credible, at least from a financial point of view." She notes that "35.5 million adds up to a lot of credibility, but not enough about that view."

Peter Wilman, director of the Centre for Tourism Policy and Research at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., says that the government now faces the financial clout to argue for wilderness preservation. Statistics Canada figures indicate that tourism directly employs 100,000 people in British Columbia. While tourism still lags behind forestry in total revenues in 1991, the province's forest industry earned more than \$19 billion, Wilman says that tourism's share is "meagre." "Previously, natural beauty was seen only as a blemish to tourism," he notes. "Now it is seen as part of the infrastructure of the industry; it is the actual stage on which tourism occurs."

The growth of interest in wilderness travel has been matched by changing uses of the outdoors. Fishing and hunting camps are the financial backbone of the outdoor business, but the industry has expanded to include such ventures as charter sailing trips among the



Tourists horse-packing near Chilko Lake in the Chilcotin: the industry's health relies on wilderness preservation

remote Queen Charlotte Islands, guided backcountry skiing and even trekking in bear country to observe grizzly bears in such remote areas as the Kluathine Valley, north of Prince Rupert. Helicopters have expanded access to alpine regions in both winter, for skiing, and summer, for hiking. Some pack ranches offer summer horse-packing trips into the lakes and mountains of the Chilcotin and Cariboo.

For many adventure travellers, wilderness is essential to the experience. Among them, Sam Boudary, an interior designer from New York City, speaks in rapturous terms of a 10-day riding trip last month down the Tatshenshini River in northwestern British Columbia. A seasoned traveller, Boudary says that she had never before encountered anything like the raw, unbridled valley of the Tatshenshini.

"It had a greater effect on me than anything else I had ever done," she says. While riding or hiking, her group saw bald eagles and other raptorial birds, mountain goats, moose, bear and often. But it was not simply the natural contrast from life in Manhattan that, for Boudary, made the trip so memorable. "It was a spiritual experience, and an emotional experience," she says. "And it was a lot of fun."

Although wilderness tourism's long-term health relies on the preservation of the natural environment, the industry's very growth sometimes threatens to undermine the supposed resource that is its stock in trade. Helicopters and chair lifts at ski resorts give more people access to scenic alpine regions, but hikes can lose up fragile ground cover while they seek to scale. More skiers result in fewer fish. But on such rivers as the Tatshenshini, the number of private and commercial trips is regulated to ensure that wilderness values are preserved. The "critical"

use of the wilderness tops the agenda of a conference on eco-tourism the government is co-sponsoring at Whistler, B.C., next month. For some companies, ethical use of their territory requires significant investment. Among those who are increasingly mindful of such needs, Paul Leson and Russ Younger recently built an on-site sewage treatment plant to preserve the purity of the groundwater around Paroel Lodge, a helicopter-access alpine resort near Golden that they own.

The priority now is to ensure that the wilderness is preserved. "What we are offering is what gives British Columbia its super, natural image," says John Miller, whose family owns Canadian River Expeditions. "We don't have the glaciers and caribou of Europe here. We have wilderness, and we will have to find some way to preserve that or we will lose our competitive advantage."

JAMES DEACON

GETTING TO THE MOUNTAINTOP

The Chatterbox of British Columbia's thriving outdoor tourism industry is less than a two-hour drive north of Vancouver. Rising steeply out of what once was the sea's level, it became the hills of the B.C. tourism hub. Whistler was first a logging resort that achieved greater renown for its skiing after Whistler Mountain was developed for that sport in 1966. And since a new townsite opened in 1980, the resort has transformed from winter sports to year-round, its old focus in decrease. Whistler was replaced by designer homes that draw luxury buyers.

Whistler's main concern is how to keep up with the crowd of tourists. Already, in fact, a gateway to wilderness. Already, Provincial Park, on the resort's eastern boundary, offers backcountry trails, alpine lakes and rugged mountain peaks. While Whistler's nature and scenic views are its main assets, its lush valley and its proximity of lakes along the shore of Golden Dreams. Development has made such views more accessible. "We'd like to spend more time here," says Carol Brown, a visitor from Lunenburg, England, who rode the gondola up Whistler Mountain to hike on alpine meadows with her family. "There's too much to do here for a short stay." In a province packed with natural beauty, Whistler is the one winning money.

J.D.

'THAT MAGIC PLACE'

Endowed with forests, mountains and the sea, British Columbia is a tourist mecca. In July, Maclean's Senior Writer Brian D. Johnson, who is based in Toronto, travelled to the West Coast for a two-week vacation with his wife and two-year-old son. His report.

I first came to breathe the horizons of the family vacation. Instead of driving north to Ontario's suburban lake cottage country, and spending another July fishing for bass and eating watermelon, we decided to escape the Toronto-crustache altogether and fly west. We headed to British Columbia, looking for adventure, novelty and new horizons. In Toronto, beauty is more a matter of landscaping than of landscape. A visitor riding in from the airport can admire the gleaming, curvaceous of SkyDome, or the corporate logos grafted onto the highway embankment. British Columbia, however, is known for natural wonders, beauty so evocative that people are known to leave work early, overwhelmed by an urge to play outside. "SuperNatural British

animal grants and coars. A fraternity restaurant? No, a mile-momented therapy session. We had heard about the West Coast counter-culture. But to see such activity at 9 a.m., in a parking lot? A rare sighting.

In Vancouver, amnesia of escape is everywhere. The city is like one big bus camp surrounded by beaches, mountains and forests. All roads lead to gridlock. And to the convenience for summer, half the population seems to be pinging or cycling away from civilization. We start with Stanley Park, a green peninsula jutting into Burrard Inlet that is almost as big as the downtown. The thrilling Vancouver Aquarium, located in the park, absorbs an entire morning. Two killer whales cavort with a dolphin, evoking school-athleticism. No staged pet tricks required. Sea otters do the backstroke while nibbling on mussels. But the white beluga whales, with their big heads and Buddha-like smiles, make the most (lovable) impression: through aquarium glass we watch a male make persistent attempts to mate with a shrew female. Family entertainment aspects hold new dimensions.

Definitely doing all the tourist things, we ride around the Stanley Park seawall on roads of mountain lakes. At Sarnia Rock, a picnic commences to the death of a 17-year-old boy who jumped from the rock in 1996 and was killed because he didn't notice that the tide was out. It is understandable. There is so much to see in Vancouver, it is hard to take in all the details.

The sea and shore of Stanley Park seems to be a subject of constant debate. Some forces are trying to ban bicycles from the seawall. Others suggest banning cars. Meanwhile, a proposed September rock concert in the park by Bryan Adams provokes loud protests. And the 300,000 people who descend onto the beaches around English Bay to watch fireworks have a controversial legacy of noise.

Not all Vancouver beaches are so public. Often we enjoy a close encounter with the counter-culture at legendary West Beach, where clothing is optional. The only access is down 200 kg steps garden into a forested cliff at the edge of the University of British Columbia. It is like wandering into another world, and another time. There are hippies of all ages, some nude and some not. Parents and children share the sand with bohemian hippies, including one man who wears nothing but a leather hat. Women hawk beer and T-shirts. A hair-shirted chef fish burgers. A topless lady sits at a table of people with knees and feet. Drunkards drift across the beach. It feels like Night Market, a slice of Japanese consciousness, with peace instead of police.

Gradually, we work our way out of town. We begin with a brief excursion to North Vancouver's Capilano Canyon. A ramble (and a



Capilano Canyon footbridge: 'they should put elevators' in the skyscraper trees

Columbia," said the tourism ads. We wanted to see it in person.

And we decided to go all the way, not just to Vancouver, but even further west than the West Coast—to the Gulf Islands, and then to the outer edge of Vancouver Island, the wild corner of seashore that forms Pacific Rim National Park, where Canada finally runs out. But the first stop is Vancouver. We stay in a rustic halfway house in the affluent but busy community of Kitsilano. For breakfast, we savor a jet-lagged inn named, in a vegetarian restaurant furnished with rough-hewn wood. It is like stepping into the Sierras. The coffee takes forever to arrive. Milky through the mist we hear a canyon outside. It sounds like a demonstration, a riot, an Iranian rioting. In the parking lot, two men are squared off, yelling and pounding the pavement with their fists. Surrounding them is a circle of another dozen men egging them on with



Vancouver Aquarium: killer whales, dolphins and beluga whales with big heads and Buddha-like smiles

to BS 50 toilet) leads from a new-growth suburb into an old-growth forest. The lecture attraction is the canyon's suspension footbridge. But the forest is most impressive: huge, gnarled trees. "They should put elevators in them," suggests our son. "Like the CN Tower." Trying to shake off the consumer ethic, we spend the afternoon hiking in Mount Seymour Provincial Park, a glorious tract of mountain wilderness just half an hour from downtown.

For one of the most popular escapes from the city is by sea. One morning we drive down to the vast ferry terminal at Tsarwau, where assemblies on airport, and within several hours we are happily outdocked in a friendly, bustling town on Marine Island. The highlight of the three-day stay is an early-morning start at low tide to a cove with learned dams that squirt water almost two metres into the air. There are holes in the sand, spouting like a compressed fountain. Clambering over rocks scudded with purple starfish, we discover a world more evocative than a Disney theme park. Each tidal pool is teeming with life, busy with a traffic of hermit crabs and bug-eyed fish. There, suddenly, breaking the silence, there is a crash that sounds like a rifle shot. Looking up, we see a glaucous black hump slide out of the waves. A killer whale? A sea lion? It was hard to tell. This was not the aquarium.

Pressing farther west, we head for Vancouver Island. On the ferry to Nanaimo, we marvel at a beached cove with hair the hue of old roses, who is drowned in an ancient twined jacket and original half-bottom blue jeans. He is reading a National Geographic. He looks like a beaver heritage site. We are getting used to seeing the counter-culture, as it appears of both new and familiar faces. On the West Coast it seems to thrive like a living reef.

Clanking off the ramp onto the dock in Nanaimo, we are jolted back to the beauty of civilization. On the highway north, we are so grateful for as least, making part of our leadership and finally. Eventually the traffic thins, the town resumes, and we strike out west across Vancouver Island. It is a breathtaking route, a two-lane drive, stretching into a day. Just 35 minutes inland, we take a turnoff to Little Qualicum Falls, a paradise of cold press water, where we swim in gentle whirlpools and dunes formed

by the rapids. Higher up, beside the falls, tourists gather to watch two strange boys try to appease a snarling girlfriend by jumping from a ridiculously high rock.

Further down the road, we stop for a walk through Cathedral Grove, one of the island's few remaining preserves of ancient forest. It is like walking among giants—trees so powerful they could pass for gods. A walking experience, like coming across the desert.

As we drive on, everything seems larger than life. And the further we go, the wilder it gets. We pass mountain peaks crowned with July snow, and sweeping lakes untouched by human habitation. In such an undeveloped wilderness, it is disconcerting to see massive scars—scores of clear-cut forest that have cut entire mountainsides. The sewage line between forest and wasteland looks arbitrary, like bomb damage in a war.

At the west coast of Vancouver Island, the highway forks. To the north, it passes through the 100-km strip of the Pacific Rim National Park and ends in the Saltspring park of Tofino. To the south is Uclulet. The contrast could not be more striking: a lush green, Uclulet sits against a stark backdrop of clear-cut mountains. Tofino, an enclave of environmental activism, overlooks slopes of unblemished forest. And the reality between the two towns serves as a paradigm for the province's economic dilemma: timber or tourism?

Between them is what must be one of the most breathtaking stretches of shoreline in the world, the serrated edge of the Pacific. The water is a bone-chilling 10°C. We rent wet suits and waders, the best you can find. On Wednesdays the surf is on man-colored rubber, we look like the fluorescent fish. The waves at Long Beach are big enough to give a good scare, and with luck, a fast ride.

The next afternoon we rent the boards without the wet suits. The water is so cold that it stings. But we stay out there, deliciously bathing about in the waves and flaring with hypothermia until toes and fingers go numb. Back on the sand, we feed driftwood logs into a fire. Further down the beach, smoke from other fires merges with the vast mass of fog. And for a moment we feel that we have reached that magic place that always seems to be just beyond the western horizon. □



Paul (left), Matthew Walker: Vancouver is now a major production centre

THE WEST COAST DREAM MACHINE

CAMERAS ROLL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

It was an idyllic summer afternoon on the streets of Deer Lake in Pausan, just west of Vancouver. Nine weeks a starry white screen surrounded by oaks. Katherine Hepburn lounged elegantly on a couch outside, at the foot of a tree. Ryan O'Neal deliberated over what to have for lunch. The two actors were between takes during the filming of *The Man Who Would Be King*, a movie that will air in December on CBS. O'Neal, who plays an arrogant coward hiding in the country mansion owned by Hepburn's character, reflected on the strain of acting alongside a screen legend. "She's a dynasty," he said in an interview. "You stand there and wonder if she's thinking. 'The doesn't compare with Tracy.' But the legend herself was apparently having a wonderful time. According to veteran television director George Schaefer, who has made two

earlier dramas with Hepburn in British Columbia, the actress is "in love with working here." He added that he, too, finds the province a great place to make TV. "The crews are so professional and so friendly," said Schaefer. "There's a very warm and very relaxed good-show-together feeling."

That sentiment is shared by dozens of film-makers and television producers who have turned Vancouver into the third busiest production centre in North America, after Los Angeles and New York City, and ahead of Toronto. Across the city that day, about 30 crews were at work. By mid-August, the number had increased to 17. Most of the activity is in television. In fact, Vancouver is now North America's second-largest centre for making TV, after Los Angeles.

The industry's growth in British Columbia

has been meteoric, up from expenditures of \$12-million in 1978 to \$176 million last year, not including spending on documentaries, commercials and industrial films. But the overall impact on the province is far greater: The British Columbia Film Commission, which has been very effective at marketing the province's locations, crews and facilities to outside producers, estimates that the industry was responsible last year for an injection of \$508 million into the economy. In 1979, the province hosted a record 55 productions—12 feature films (including the Meg Tilly-Christine Lahti movie *Love and Normal*), 36 TV series (among them, *New Rules*, *MacGyver* and *The Commish*) and 25 movies. That pool of activity keeps an estimated 4,000 people directly employed.

Still, some insiders worry that the boom could easily go too far. They note that at least three-quarters of the activity in British Columbia involves servicing foreign, mainly U.S., productions. The Americans are lured by lower costs, skilled crews, the variety of locations, the proximity to Los Angeles and the abundant tax money. They arrive with their own scripts and, usually, U.S. directors, hire local crews, and then return home to assemble the final product. "To me it's not adding to the creative business," said producer Robert Vince, president of Vancouver-based Entertainment Securities Ltd. "Somebody brings the plans up here, you make the changes, and they take it home to do the editing and finish the cut."

Some observers caution that if the exchange value of the Canadian dollar rises, or B.C. crews become a little more expensive, the work will disappear. Several American studios, as well as a number of countries, are reportedly competing for million-pipe dollars. And Los Angeles is trying to win back some of its lost business. Meanwhile, many people in the industry argue that it takes a solid infrastructure—something to keep it going if the American dream is betrayed. Instead, Ontario's film and TV business has a secure corporate base, with established companies like *Adrian* and *Alfa* that generate their own projects, do their own post-production (which includes editing and sound mixing) and have their own distribution arms. Said Fred Kirk Glickson, a production manager and line producer: "Until recently, Vancouver has put its eggs all in one basket. They say that's a bad thing to do."

The Vancouver industry is built on quick-

turnover. Columbia companies have firmed up the foundations of the local industry. Gary Canadian producer, writer and director, and maintaining at least some Canadian ownership, they have launched their own projects into the international marketplace. And since 1981, B.C. Film, a provincial funding agency, has been supporting the province's writers and producers, with this year's commitments expected to total about \$9 million.

For now, the *services* based-plants activity continues, with Vancouver as its hub. In fact, for those who know where to look, travelling across the city can be a little like TV channel-hopping. One day late last month, on an old highway in English Bay, Charles Bronson put forward a *Lancia*, the hero of Jack London's novel *The Sea Wolf*, while Christopher Reeve and Catherine Mary Stewart portrayed the characters who may be recast in the TV movie. In a Kitsilano neighborhood, a group of actors played out the trials and tribulations of a fledgling rock band in a new series called *The Heights*. And in a studio in North Vancouver, actor Michael Chiklis was making an episode of the ABC series *The Commish* in which his

go from town to New Jersey to the streets of New York to Los Angeles all in the same day," he said. "With Columbia and the Lionsgate-Maverick deals, there are a lot of good reasons."

Society also cited the flexibility of local film unions. Network budgets have been drastically squeezed by the fragmentation of the TV industry, which means lower production budgets. In order to secure a third Canadian series in Vancouver this summer, along with *The Commish* and the police series *Street Justice*, Sweeney said that the unions agreed to allow a few breaks and rollbacks on some of their benefits. The result: *The Hot Squad*, another police series, is now in production at a studio in Vancouver's Chinatown. Said Sweeney: "They recognized that we weren't inhibiting them and that this was the new economics of television."

But many industry people argue that even though British Columbia's competitive edge is much narrower than it used to be, the skill and spirit of the local crews still counts strongly among outside producers. The camaraderie was evident between takes of *The Man Who Would Be King* last month, as television director MacGregor gave Los Angeles producer Bruce

Udders Paul engaged in a sweet fight to protect his girlfriend. As he watched the filming, Barry Shoop, one of the Los Angeles producers, was full of praise for local moviemakers and facilities. "These people are the friends—they work with you," he said. "In Hollywood, it's like, 'How are we going to get you?'"

But many local industry participants stress the danger of continuing to rely on foreign-controlled production. And they note a few caveats that may help to consolidate a B.C.-controlled industry. One recent cause for optimism was the establishment in June of Spelling Television Canada Inc. Headquarters in a renovated brewery at Vancouver's historic mill complex, the company is an offshoot of Los Angeles-based Spelling Television Inc., the successful creator of such past and current hits as *Charlie's Angels* and *Beaver Hills 90210*. As well as shooting two U.S.-developed series in the city, *The Heights* and a new comedy series called *The Shred Ya Me*, Spelling's Vancouver division has committed itself to developing Canadian projects, using Canadian writers, producers and directors.

At the same time, a number of British Columbia producers, having cut their teeth on American shows, are now launching their own projects. They have the American contacts necessary to secure the co-financing deals that most insiders agree are the only way for Canadians to survive in the international marketplace. The coproductions allow them to share the costs, and the risks, and give them ready access to U.S. and other markets.

One of the better established among those producers is Robert Maclean, who plans to divide his time between Los Angeles, his base for the past five years, and his native province. Maclean expects to produce five features in British Columbia this fall. Another is a production of the crime drama by B.C. writer William Beverell, with Philip Brown as director, and with Tom Berenger, Graham Greene and Jose Chen as the likely stars; and *Angus*, a coming-of-age story written by Westminster Baskin, Graham Greene and starring Graham Greene and Adam Han-Eden, the boy in *Little Man Tate*. Said Maclean, "People are looking for new ways to build an industry here. Despite the ongoing recession in the rest of the company, things aren't all that bleak."

The current flurry of activity often shunts aside concerns about the industry's vulnerability. Certainly, the atmosphere in B.C. motion-picture circles is buoyant. Taking a break from shooting an episode of the series *Street Justice* at North Shore Studios, U.S. actor Carl Weathers, who plays detective Adrian Bronckhorst, explained that there is a "joyful affair" on Vancouver sets that he has not detected elsewhere. Added Weathers, who portrayed Apollo Creed in the *Rocky* movies, and who 20 years ago was a linebacker for the B.C. Lions: "Being in Vancouver, you get a sense of a love affair with its beginning." The issue being the industry now, he will the passion last!

PATRICIA HILCHRY in VANCOUVER



Shooting *The Commish* with Chiklis: 4,000 employees, not the boom last

character, the affable and slightly bungled police commissioner "You Say," explains the outcome of pornography to his young son.

The *Commish* is produced by CanWest Films Ltd., a six-year-old Canadian offshoot of Los Angeles-based General Studios. CanWest Films was president and general manager Stephen Sweeney says that his company set up shop in Vancouver, where the company is based in the giant North Shore Studios, another subsidiary of U.S. CanWest. "For the exchange rate," he says, "it was the worth of locations." You can

Wrote a soap opera. "The people are not just perfect," he said. "When you have the incentives and that enthusiasm, it just becomes a business of money and loss and so on."

Producers programs also cut the province's last-look claim, its moderate climate and that old stereotype, the nice Canadian, as factors that will sustain the foreign-driven segment of the industry. On the set of the new action-fiction adventure series *The Highlander*, it seemed by the French company Gaumont Telecinema, Montreal head Dennis MacLeod

PUBERTY BLUES

AN AUTHOR SCANS A NEW GENERATION

Ever since he characterized the outlook of his generation as one of "teenism—a philosophy whereby one occasionally resorted to diminishing expectations," Douglas Coupland has been a case study in success. With the 1993 publication of his first novel, *Generation X*, in which he coined several such expressions and spun a story of three teenagers growing into adults living in the shadow of the color lady boomers, Coupland has become the unofficial spokesman of people born between the early 1960s and early 1970s. The book climbed to the top of best-seller lists, sold 150,000 copies in North America, and was translated into 15 languages. Last year, the Vancouver-based author hosted a PBS documentary called *The Search for Generation X* and received requests for advice on the subject by White House policy analysts. Now, Coupland, 36, has turned his attention to a younger generation. In *Shameless Planet* (Doubt Books, \$20), he weaves a wry, apocalyptic tale of an ageing pop star and his offshoot circle of friends, members of a generation that Coupland calls "the Global Thru."

Although the author is almost twice as old as the main characters in *Shameless Planet*, he creates in the book a fictional teenage world that is both convincing and lightly entertaining. It is all through the decade that separates him from his latest crop of characters he provides Coupland with a sense of perspective, and levity, that was sometimes lacking in the often bleak, dystopian *Generation X*. "I think that he is glad to be freed from the obligation of representing generation, a task that he claims he took on only reluctantly after writing the earlier novel 'With Generation X, what started out as characters in a book became representatives of a broad layer of people, and of cultural trends,'" says Coupland in a recent interview. "Still, they were just characters in a novel. That is all they are in the new book, too."

The third of four sons of a family doctor and his wife, Coupland's first artistic achievements came three years after his graduation from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver when, in 1987, he had a solo sculpture



Coupland finding hope in diminishing opportunities

show at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Soon after, the restless young man traveled to Hawaii, where he completed a two-year course in Japanese business science. "I don't know what that was all about," he says now. Having to writing, he dabbled in magazine journalism and cartooning before beginning to write fiction—"old fashioned," as he describes it—with *Generation X*.

Much of his new book's typical derives from his biotic main characters. Tyler Jensen, a hip and hopeful college student living in the northwestern United States, Jensen is based on a character mentioned in *Generation X* and Coupland said that he began writing *Shameless Planet* after he engaged upon him. As well, he

said, he wanted to write a novel with a more postmodernist, "Taoist Polynesian, but I'm optimistic about the future," said Coupland. "I think, *Shameless Planet* has an optimism about it that *Generation X* does not."

Like the *Generation X* characters, Jensen lives in a world plagued by inevitable art and career opportunities by the powerful baby boomers. Born in a commune in British Columbia, he lives with his divorced mother, Joanne, a superannuated flower child who for years has kept her three children on "happy parent alert, inspecting the microwave oven for chemicals at lunch, before friends come over to watch videos." He needs Tyler Jensen's magazine, keeps his room, which he calls "the Moderationist," free of the "hippies, stained-glass decorating nastiness" in the rest of the house, and looks for a job at a local high-tech company.

Facing a turbulent period during which Jensen breaks up with his girlfriend and begins searching for his father, Coupland keeps in eye trained on his hero's everyday quips and adolescent philosophies. Among the young man's most prized possessions is an exclusive teenage collection, what his mother calls his "Shameless museum" and his girlfriend calls his "bedroom starter kit." But Jensen cautions that "what's on top of your head says what's inside your head. Once that gets going, all other feelings."

Although Jensen finds cause for hope in healthy but, and is determined to make the best of his diminishing opportunities, he never completely escapes himself from the shadow network of the *Generation Xers* who preceded him. Jensen's approach to life is tempered by a silver awareness of a world going through "severe shopping withdrawal and seems good withdrawal," where convenience stores and the low-pay jobs that they offer appear to be "the economic engine of the New World Order," and where the sight of a clear-fronted car is so devastating that it moves the young man to weep.

And Coupland makes sure that his hero's successes do not imply just solutions for as age group facing economic challenges. Even when an ambitious proposal to turn dump areas into amusement parks was Jensen's job at the corporation that his mother once flunked, he reveals cynical cheer his odds for long-term success. "Old people will always win," he muses. "The system is absolutely rigged in their favor." Without the pain of that first book, but with all of its impact, *Shameless Planet* has a maturing author artfully mixing the hopes and dreams of a generation that has good reason to have little of either.

VICTOR DUTTER



Leigh (left), Rachel: a predictable, goose-bump thriller that goes only skin deep

FILMS/BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Dramas of despair

Three movies pivot on tormented characters

SINGLE WHITE FEMALES
Directed by Barbet Schroeder

In its relentless manufacture of psychological thrillers, Hollywood seems to have settled on a formula: a psychotic killer explains a close trust to invade the home of a successful professional. In such case, the victim must come out of her skin, pick up and drag—like the subscribers in *Fatal Attraction* (1987) and, more recently, the scene in *The House That Builds for Crude* and the polemic in *Unlawful Entry*. Now, in *Single White Female*, the scene is a roommate with a lethal downward for privacy. Based on the John Lutz novel *SWF* (Sally Went for Fakes), the movie is a goose-bump thriller that goes only skin deep. But it features superb performances by Jennifer Jason Leigh and Bridget Fonda. And director Barbet Schroeder, who guided Jeremy Irons' Oscar-winning turn in *Rainman* (1988), delivers a subtle and understated hit.

Responding to a classified ad, *Single White Female* (1992) moves into a Manhattan apartment with Alle (Jennifer Jason Leigh), who has just landed her unattractive boyfriend, Sam (Steven Weber). She is in a secret war with her ex-boyfriend, Bridget Fonda's Alle's sister, Isabelle—and her brother. The plot contains some congenial twists, but the suspense is based on the audience knowing the outcome as the story heads to a predictable and gruesome climax

The movie does, however, reuse some thriller clichés. Schroeder glorifies Tyler Allen's unattractive boyfriend and her sexually harassing boss into victims. Leigh's victim, meanwhile, appears comically too naïve. Still, Schroeder directs with the eye of a male voyeur. With Leigh and Fonda constantly walking about the apartment in sexually charged undergarments, *Single White Female* seems designed to thrill the single white male.

THE BEST INTENTIONS
Directed by Bill August

A handsome daughter from a wealthy family declares her love for a poor, lower-class student devoted to the church. But, as the movie says, "I can't imagine a more impossible and failed combination." That prophecy is amply fulfilled in *The Best Intentions*, a Swedish saga of class conflict, emotional spats, and the general cruelty of human existence. The movie is not just about two tormented individuals, although it could be. It is about Anna and Henrik Bergman, parents of legendary Swedish director Ingmar Bergman, who wrote the script. Bergman announced his retirement after making *Fanny and Alexander* (1983), a portrait of his own childhood. And he entrusted *The Best Intentions* to Danish-born director Bille August, who made the Oscar-winning *Pelle the Conqueror* (1988), a father-son epic about migrant work-

ers at the turn of the century.

More than three hours long, *The Best Intentions* patiently makes its way through 10 years of Anna and Henrik's agonized courting and marriage, ending just before Ingmar's birth in 1918. The pace seems slow at first. But once the conflict sets in, the film acquires the emotional luxury of a fine novel—worth savoring until the (eventual) bitter end. Winner of the best film and best actress awards at the Cannes Film Festival in May, *The Best Intentions* features exquisitely balanced performances by Pernilla August as the status-conscious Anna and Steven Frier as the naive Henrik.

The story, meanwhile, takes place against the grim backdrop of a general strike, and the austere beauty of northern Sweden, where Henrik drags Anna to be a parish wife. But August's images abound with lyrical grace and echo with Bergman's serene moral vision—a world where happiness, despite the best intentions, is an aberration.

ON MY OWN
Directed by Antonio Tadeo

Set in southern Ontario, *On My Own* is a tender tale of a 15-year-old boy at an elite boarding school who endures a painful reunion with his schizophrenic mother. It looks, feels and sounds like a thoroughly Canadian movie. But it is, in fact, a production involving Canada, Australia and Italy. Making his first feature, Italian director Antonio Tadeo wrote the script with a U.S. and a Canadian co-writer. Playing the mother, Australian actor Judy Davis is, as always, a treat. And the movie's Toronto-based star, Matthew Ferguson, once 17, is captivating in his first screen role. But although the film draws an evocative portrait of prepubescent adolescence, it is a coming-of-age story that never reaches maturity.

Sometimes, elegance and cult, Simon (Ferguson) is a gentle but smart and curious about his mother. The superior parents he shared—his father (David McRum) in Hong Kong and his mother in London. At Christmas, Simon leaves boarding school to meet them in Toronto, only to learn that his mother is in hospital after the stroke she suffered on his school—just after her on an extension program with Ledaig magazine.

Canadian cinematographer Bill Sienko finds poetry in the first grey light of an Ontario winter, and in the raw-wet surfaces of waves crashing between the school and the city. "Child, however, there is a strong current out of laughing sadness and awkward loneliness. But the story lacks connection. The subject of Simon's sexual awakening takes a perplexing detour. Several characters, including his father, remain opaque. Ferguson, meanwhile, acts with such energy and candor that he is almost betrayed by the script's halfhearted resolution."

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

London calling

A leading author conjures up a great city

THE REAL THING

By Doreen Lessing
(HarperCollins, 214 pages, \$26.75)

In 1777, the English writer and wit Samuel Johnson remarked, "What a man is tired of London, he is tired of life." By that standard, British novelist Doreen Lessing, 72, has a good deal of vitality left. She first arrived in London in 1949, a young, unpub-



Lessing: fertile, unpredictable human mystery

lished novelist from Rhodes (now Zimbabwe) arrived on winning her literary space in the imperial capital. More than 40 years and almost 40 books later, she still makes London her home. The city appears in the background of many of her works, including her groundbreaking 1962 novel about the lives of women, *The Golden Notebook*. But only in her latest collection of short stories and sketches, *The Real Thing*, does her beloved adopted home seem like a character in its own right. London

"was like a great theatre," she writes in the sketch *Stones*. "You could watch what went on all day, and sometimes I did. You could sit for hours in a café or on a bench and just watch."

In *The Real Thing*, Lessing's London-watching has unearthed a variety of human types and predicaments of the sort that would surely have delighted Dr. Johnson. Some of the entries are only a few pages long, yet they are remarkable at distilling the essence of people Lessing has observed. In the sketch *Sparrows*, the narrator eavesdrops on a middle-aged couple in a restaurant garden. It soon becomes clear that their relationship has grown stale. But when the woman catches a third fledgling sparrow to take the crumbs that she offers, her joy at her success strikes the scales from her husband's eyes. "For the first time since they had sat down there," Lessing writes, "he was outside his selfish prison and really seeing her."

Such people hover between journalism and fiction. They appear to be based on real-life incidents, but Lessing is too much the novelist to refrain from interpreting her inventive themes. Her career-long concern with the vibrant dance between the sexes dominates *Men*, a description of a London party in which a group of male politicians unwittingly exclude and demean a female colleague. As so often happens in Lessing's work, the women women make mistakes and reconsider them the beyond men around her. Lessing does not portray men as well as she does women, but in such stories as *D.H.S.S.* and *The Mother of the Child* in *Question* she at least lends them a certain beguiling dignity.

Besides the shorter observation pieces, *The Real Thing* also contains a handful of short stories in which Lessing's imagination is working at full throttle. The title story concerns two middle-class couples, Sebastian and Angela, and Henry and Judy. The four Londoners, all friends, are spending a weekend together at a country cottage. What complicates matters is that Henry and Angela need to be married to each other. The American Judy, Henry's girlfriend, is deeply troubled by the bond, talkative intimacy between the two former spouses. Indeed, they spend much of the weekend away together, attending to their sick daughter, who is staying at a nearby home. That leaves Judy

and Sebastian alone for hours on end. Inevitably, they fall into a long discussion of the situation, allowing Lessing to offer a fascinating meditation on the nature of intimacy and emotional honesty.

The collection's finest story is *The Pit* Sarah, a woman who enjoys her life alone, is suddenly confronted by her ex-husband. James had left her years earlier for a beautiful woman named Rose. Now, Rose is having an affair with someone else. Crushed, James has come lurching back to ask Sarah if she will have an affair with him. Sarah is tempted because James is still attractive, and the pain of his desertion has long since modulated into something more mellow. The tension in the story flows from Sarah's indecision as she reviews her options and remembers her marriage.

One of the great achievements of *The Pit* is its portrait of Rose, who never actually appears in the story. Detail by detail, she comes to life in Sarah's perceptive mind, until the profoundly insecure, manipulative, and theatrical Rose seems ready to walk off the page.

Like most of Lessing's best fiction, *The Pit* is an exploratory work that tests the limits of conscience and behavior. London is not mentioned within it, it is the sort of story that could happen almost anywhere. Yet London seems to hover in the background, the nature of the fertile, unpredictable human mystery that Lessing loves.

JOLY BEMBOGE

Maclean's

FIRST-SEALER LIST

- FICTION**
- 1 *Geno's Game*, King (1)
 - 2 *For the Sake of Blood*, George (3)
 - 3 *Fatherland*, Horn (2)
 - 4 *Grief & Solace*, Patrick (3)
 - 5 *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Greville (3)
 - 6 *City of Gold*, Angeline (4)
 - 7 *Bare Furch*, Leonard (4)
 - 8 *The Living*, Dillard
 - 9 *Eye of the Storm*, Higgins (10)
 - 10 *Possessing the Secret of Joy*, Kundera (3)

- NON-FICTION**
- 1 *Dianna*, Her Time, Morton (2)
 - 2 *The Silent Passage*, Sharpe (2)
 - 3 *The Culture of Entertainment*, Sullivan (2)
 - 4 *Summer Meditations*, Neal (2)
 - 5 *The Lords of the Rings*, Simon and (2)
 - 6 *Woods Without End*, for (2)
 - 7 *Beckwith's Field*, (2)
 - 8 *Blackmail*, from (2)
 - 9 *The Happy Man of Oenone*, Thomas (15)
 - 10 *Peppercorn Report*, Peterson (5)
- (1) Fiction best seller
Compiled by Bruce Berman

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